

# Town of Goshen

## Massachusetts

### 2020 Annual Town Report



(Photo: Sunset from the Goshen DAR)

Financials based on Fiscal Year 2020  
July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020



# Thank you for your service to Goshen and congratulations on your retirement!

While the following individuals did not retire in 2020, we would be remiss, to not offer our timely congratulations to the following individuals who have been the cornerstones of our police and fire departments for decades. We hope you will join us in offering a heartfelt thank you for their years of dedicated service.



**Chief Susan Labrie** will retire in June 2021 after 32 years as a fire fighter for Goshen's Fire Department. She has served as Chief for the last 15 years and became the state's first female Fire Chief in 2006.



**Robert Labrie** will retire in June 2021 after 32 years as a fire fighter for Goshen's Fire Department. He has served as Captain for the last 15 years and is the department's Chief Technology Officer.



**Officer Donna Hewes and Chief Jeffery Hewes** will retire in June 2021 after 25 years of service to the Town of Goshen. Jeffery Hewes has served as Chief of Police in Goshen for the past 21 years making him Goshen's longest serving Police Chief. Along with being an officer, Donna Hewes has served as the Police Department Administrator.

### **Dedication**

Our 2020 Annual Report is dedicated to all those committed individuals who live and work in the Town of Goshen.

Those individuals include the first responders and other essential employees, committee and board members, volunteers, and our community partners who have continued to work to keep all municipal functions moving forward. We also recognize many of you are essential employees elsewhere and have continued to work and care for your families.

We also want to recognize all those within the broader Goshen community, whose conscientious abidance by the Commonwealth's COVID-19 guidance and regulations have helped to keep us all safe. Without your commitment to one another the Town would not have been able to fair as well as we have so far throughout this unprecedented period.

Sincerely,

The Goshen Select Board

Angela Otis, Chair

Wayne Glaser, Vice Chair

Kristine Bissell, Clerk

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## Facts of Interest about Goshen

[www.goshen-ma.us](http://www.goshen-ma.us)

### History

Goshen was first settled in 1761 as a part of the Town of Chesterfield and was officially incorporated on May 14, 1781 as a separate town.

1761 Original settlement  
1781 Incorporated

### Points of Interest

D.A.R. State Forest  
Camp Howe Summer Camp  
Home of Goshen building stone (schist)  
Goshen Historical Museum

### Location

Located in Hampshire County, centrally 13 miles west of the Connecticut River in the Berkshire foothills.

### Latitude and Longitude of Town Hall

42.44°N 72.81°W

### Elevation

1450 ft (442 m) above sea level

### Area

17.7 square miles 11,328 acres

### Local Form of Government and Voting

Open Town Meeting/Select Board  
Annual Town Election – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May  
Annual Town Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May  
Goshen residents at least 18 years old with US  
Citizenship may register to vote at Town Clerk's Office,  
motor vehicle registration renewal, or the State election website.

### Population/Demographics

2019 Local Census - 988  
Federal Census 2010 - 1,054  
Federal Census 2000 - 921  
Labor Force 2016 - 654  
Median Age 2017 - 48.2  
Income per Capita 2015 - \$12,177  
Equalized Valuation per Capita 2016 - \$140,277

### Road Miles (not including DAR State Forest) 38.23

Town Roads – 24.44 miles  
State Roads – 7.37 miles  
Private Roads – 6.42 miles

### Property Tax Information

FY 2020: \$15.11  
Average Single-Family Tax Bill FY2020: \$3,715  
Total Valuation of Taxable Property FY2020: \$245,837

## National, State, and County Officials

### Governor & Lt. Governor

Charles Baker, Jr., Governor  
Karyn Polito, Lt. Governor  
Office of the Governor  
State House, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-725-4005 [www.mass.gov/gov](http://www.mass.gov/gov)

### Secretary of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-727-7030 [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us)

### Attorney General

Maura Healey  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-727-8400 [www.mass.gov/ago](http://www.mass.gov/ago)

### United States Senators

#### **Edward J. Markey**

1500 Main St, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield, MA 01101  
413-785-4610 <https://www.markey.senate.gov/>

#### **Elizabeth Warren**

1550 Main St, Suite 406  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-788-2690 [www.warren.senate.gov/](http://www.warren.senate.gov/)

### Representative in Congress 1st Congressional District

Richard E. Neal  
300 State St, Suite 200  
Springfield, MA 01105  
413-785-0325 [www.neal.house.gov/](http://www.neal.house.gov/)

### State Senator Berkshire/Hampshire/Franklin/Hampden

Adam Hinds  
State House, Room 309  
Boston, MA  
617-772-1625  
[Adam.hinds@masenate.gov](mailto:Adam.hinds@masenate.gov)  
District Office  
413-344-4561

### Representative in General Court 1st Franklin District

Natalie Blais  
State House, Room 134  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-722-2400  
[natalieblais@mahouse.gov](mailto:natalieblais@mahouse.gov)  
District Office  
413-362-9453

### District Attorney

David E. Sullivan – Hampshire/Franklin District  
1 Gleason Plaza  
Northampton, MA 01060 413-586-9225

## Goshen Elected Officials - FY2020

### Almoners (3-year term)

Stephen Estelle	(2022)
Kristine Bissell	(2021)
Michael Rock	(2023)

### Board of Assessors (3-year term)

Gina Papineau	(2021)
Cassandra Morrey	(2023)
Diane Bushee	(2022)

### Board of Health (3-year term)

Michael Kurland	(2021)
Nick Cockoros	(2023)
Laura Barrus	(2022)

### Board of Library Trustees (3-year term)

Miriam Kurland	(2021)
Rosemarie Clark	(2021)
Rosemary Bienz	(2023)
Melanie Dana	(2022)
Marcia Shaw	(2022)
Kathy Boisvert	(2023)

### Finance Committee (3-year term)

Angela Otis	(2021)
Dawn Scaparotti	(2023)
Vacant	(2023)
Kristine Bissell	(2022)
Gina Papineau	(2022)

### Hampshire Council of Governments (2-year term)

Dawn Scaparotti	(2022)
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### Moderator (2-year term)

Keith Wright	(2022)
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### Planning Board (5-year term)

Roger Culver	(2023)
James Barrett	(2022)
Lisa Newman	(2021)
Vacant	(2023)
Joseph Frye	(2024)

### School Committee -Hampshire Regional (3-year term)

Paul Marcinek	(2023)
---------------	--------

### School Committee - New Hingham Regional Elementary School (3 year term )

Barton Gage	(2021)
Heather Crocker Aulenback	(2023)
Neil Godden	(2022)

### Select Board (3-year term)

Angela Otis	(2021)
Kristen Bissell	(2023)
Wayne Glaser	(2022)

## Goshen Elected Officials - FY2020

### Town Clerk (3-year term)

Kristen Estelle	(2021)
-----------------	--------

### Tilton Town Farm Supervisors (1-year term)

Roger Culver	(2022)
Richard K. Polwrek	(2022)
Robert O. Goss	(2022)

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### Animal Control Officer Back-Up (1-year term)

Warren Kirkpatrick
--------------------

### Animal Control Officer (3-year term)

Kate Nevins
-------------

### Animal Inspector (3-year term)

Nick Cockoros
---------------

### Assistant Assessor (3-year term)

Gina Papineau
---------------

### Assessor's Clerk (1-year term)

Pat Morey
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### Assistant Town Clerk (1-year term)

Gina Papineau
---------------

### Assistant Town Collector (1-year term)

Vacant
--------

### Assistant Treasurer (1-year term)

Vacant
--------

### Board of Registrars (3-year term)

Vacant
Rose-Marie Carr
Janice Ellis

### Capital Planning Committee (3-year term)

Gina Papineau
Todd Dewkett
Wayne Glaser
Jeffrey Hewes
Dawn Scaparotti

### Cemetery Superintendent (1-year term)

Roger Culver
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### Certified Public Weighers (1-year term)

Vacant
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### Community Compact Program (1-year term)

Vacant
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## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### Complete Streets Committee (1-year term)

John Bienz  
Rosemary Bienz  
Joan Griswold  
Gary Griswold  
Marya Zilberberg

### Community Preservation Committee (1-year term)

Norene Roberts – Historical  
Sandra Papush – Conservation  
Vacant—Planning Board  
Vacant – Recreation  
Pat Morey – Open Space  
Joe Roberts – At large

### Conservation Commission (3-year term)

Charles Amo  
Michael Duquette  
Tom Cairns  
Sandra Papush  
Vacant

### Constable (2-year term)

Nick Cockoros  
Don Tryon

### Council on Aging (3-year term)

Evelyn Kellogg-Culver - Director  
Kathryn Boisvert  
Lorraine Brisson  
Henrietta Munroe  
Sandra Papush  
Nancy Wood

### Cultural Council (3-year term)

Kristen Estelle  
Nancy Wood  
Jane O’Riordan  
Marya Zilberberg  
Rose Carr

### Custodian for Town Properties (3-year term)

Allan Kidston

### Custodian

Ronald E. Loven, Jr.

### Election Warden (1-year term)

Evelyn Kellogg-Culver

### Electrical Inspector (1-year term)

Curt Golec

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### Emergency Management Director (1-year term)

Larry Holmberg

### Emergency Response Coordinator (1-year term)

Larry Holmberg

### Fence Viewers (1-year term)

Vacant

Vacant

### Field Driver (1-year term)

Vacant

### Fire Chief (1-year term)

Susan Labrie

### Fire Warden (1-year term)

Susan Labrie

### Goshen Light Goshen Energy Committee (1-year term)

Vacant

### Health Agent (appointed by Board of Health)

Mark Bushee

### Historical Commission (3-year term)

Norene Roberts  
Sandra Greenwood  
Joe Roberts  
Vacant  
Vacant

### Highway Department Superintendent (1-year term)

Todd Dewkett

### Highway Department Personnel (1-year term)

Phillip Culver

### HRMC Director (1-year term)

Kathleen Casey

### HRMC Representative (1-year term)

Laura Barrus  
Michael Kurland

### Inspector of Buildings (1-year term)

Phil Harris

### Inspector of Buildings Clerk (1-year term)

Patricia Morey

### Legal Counsel (1-year term)

KP Law

### Library Director (Appointment by Library Trustees)

Martha Noblick

### Library Aide (appointed by Library Trustees)

Vacant

### Municipal Light Plant Manager

Wayne Glaser

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### Open Space Committee (1-year term)

Melanie Dana  
Patricia Morey  
Sandra Papush  
Vacant  
Vacant

### Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Rep (1-year term)

Vacant  
Vacant

### Plumbing and Gas Inspector (1-year term)

Donald Lawton

### Police Chief (1-year term)

Jeffrey Hewes

### Police Sargent (1-year term)

Vacant

### Police Department Administrative Assistant (1-year term)

Donna Hewes

### Police Officers (1-year term)

William Bissell  
Donna Hewes  
Erik Loiko  
Brendan Smith

### Recreation Commission (1-year term)

Talon Zdaniewicz  
Roger Culver  
David Bond  
Matt Gougeon  
Taylor Granger  
Joan Griswold  
Mitchell Cichy

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### Route 112 Advisory Representative (1-year term)

Vacant

### Town Accountant (1-year term)

Eric Kinsherb

### Town Collector (1-year term)

Jennifer Day

### Town Treasurer (3-year term)

Allan Kidston

### Transfer Station Technician (1-year term)

Timothy Hogan

### Assistant Transfer Station Technician (1-year term)

Roger Culver

### Tree Warden (1-year term)

Robert Goss

### Trench Permit Issuing Authority (1-year term)

Todd Dewkett

### Veteran's Agent (1-year term)

Thomas Geryk

### Zoning Board of Appeals (3-year term)

William O'Riordan  
Steve Estelle  
Corey Carvalho  
Roger Culver, Alternate



## **Town Contacts and Office Hours**

***Meeting/Office Hours Subject to Change -Check website for latest information***

### **Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector**

24/7 Dispatch: (413) 586-1508

### **Board of Assessors**

413-268-8236 ext. 302

*Office Hours - Tuesday 8AM-2PM*

*Meetings Wednesday 6:30 PM*

### **Board of Health**

413-268-8236 ext. 110

*Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:00 PM*

### **Building Department**

Inspector of Buildings 413-268-8236 Electrical

Inspector 413-320-1156

Plumbing/Gas Inspector 413-268-7487

*Office Hours - Mon 6PM-8 PM, Thurs 11AM-3 PM*

### **Conservation Commission**

413-695-3500

*Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 6:00 PM*

### **Council on Aging**

413-268-3316

Luncheon - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Noon in Town Hall

*Meetings – Last Tuesday 1:00 PM*

### **Finance Committee**

*Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:00 pm*

### **Fire Department**

56 Main Street

Emergency 911

Business 413-268-7161

### **Hampshire Regional School District**

19 Stage Road

Westhampton, MA 01027

Superintendent 413-527-7200

### **Hampshire Regional High School**

19 Stage Road

Westhampton, MA 01027

413-527-7680

*School Committee Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:00 PM*

### **New Hingham Elementary School**

30 Smith Road

Chesterfield, MA 01012

413-296-0000

*School Committee Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 5:30 PM*

### **Highland Ambulance**

2-12 Williams Drive

Emergency 911;

Business 413-268-7272

### **Highway Department**

8 Highland Road

413-268-7062

### **Historical Museum**

48 Main Street

413-268-7026

### **Library Board of Trustees**

413-268-8236 ex 111

*Library Hours – Tues 3-6PM, Wed 3-6PM, Sat 11-3*

*Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 6PM*

### **Planning Board**

413-268-3316

*Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:00 PM*

### **Police Department**

40 Main Street

Emergency 911

Business 268-3116

Dispatch 586-1508

### **Recreation Department**

413-268-3316

*Meetings – Last Tuesday 7:30 PM*

### **Selectboard/Town Administrator**

413-268-8236 ext. 301

*Meetings – Every Other Monday 6:00 PM*

### **Tax Collector**

413-268-8236 ext. 106

*Office Hours - Wednesday 6:00-8:00 PM*

### **Town Clerk**

413-268-8236 ext. 107

*Office Hours - Monday 9 AM-3 PM, 6-8PM*

### **Town Treasurer**

413-268-8236 ext. 108

*Office Hours - Monday 6:00-8:00 PM*

### **Transfer Station**

18 Wing Hill Road

413-268-7079

*Open Saturday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM*

### **Veterans Agent**

413-587-1299

*Office Hours - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 11:30 AM-1:30PM*

### **Voter Registration**

413-268-8236 ext. 107

Town Clerk's Office

*Monday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, 6:00-8:00 PM*

Registration deadline 20 days before election

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**Town Accountant**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and citizens of Goshen, I submit to you the following Annual Financial Report.

Our mission is to ensure that the appropriate financial and auditing controls within the Town are maintained in an efficient, cost-effective, and responsive manner. We oversee all departmental appropriations assuring that departments operate within their annual budget. In addition, we are responsible for maintaining all financial records and that they are in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric A. Kinsherf".

Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA

[www.erickinsherfcpa.com](http://www.erickinsherfcpa.com)

Town Accountant

**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups**  
**as of June 30, 2020**  
**(Unaudited)**

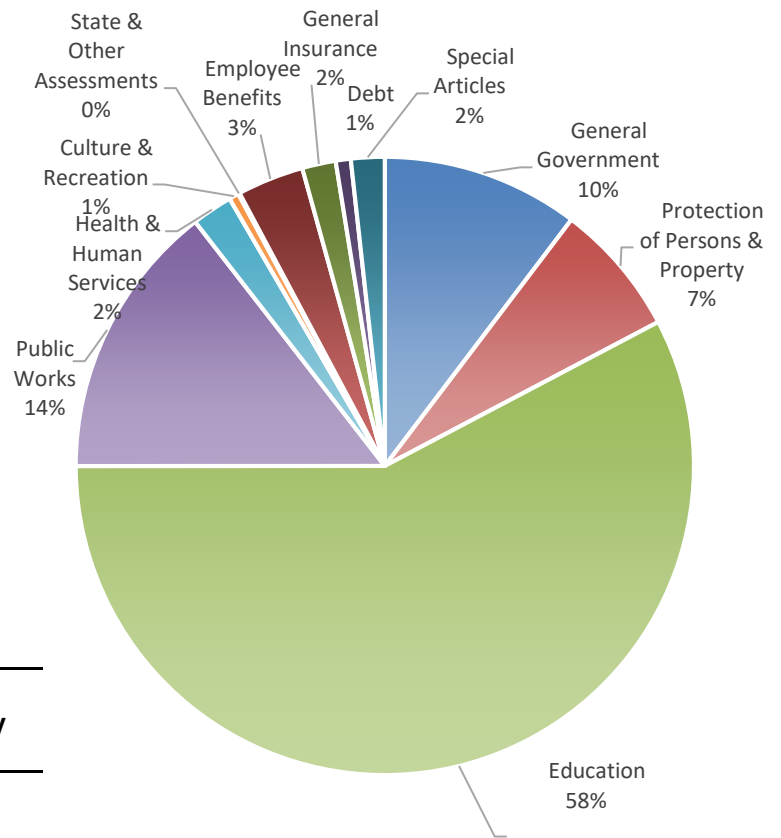
	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	740,503.16	1,932,550.32	472,772.34	202,198.94		3,348,024.76
Investments						0.00
Receivables:						
Personal property taxes	95.24					95.24
Real estate taxes (includes Rollback Taxes)	96,354.15	(942.38)				95,411.77
Deferred taxes						0.00
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(100,428.36)					(100,428.36)
Tax liens	46,507.21	661.41				47,168.62
Tax foreclosures	44,602.62					44,602.62
Motor vehicle excise	25,908.93					25,908.93
Other receivables						0.00
Due from other governments	26,416.00		199,946.00			226,362.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds					734,654.00	734,654.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>879,958.95</b>	<b>1,932,269.35</b>	<b>672,718.34</b>	<b>202,198.94</b>	<b>734,654.00</b>	<b>4,421,799.58</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</u></b>						
Liabilities:						
Accrued payroll and withholdings	2,099.10					2,099.10
Undistributed Receipts	90.66					90.66
Agency Funds				26,850.70		26,850.70
Deferred revenue:						
Real and personal property taxes	(3,978.97)	(942.38)				(4,921.35)
Tax liens	46,507.21	661.41				47,168.62
Tax foreclosures	44,602.62					44,602.62
Motor vehicle excise	25,908.93					25,908.93
Other receivables						0.00
Due from other governments	26,416.00		199,946.00			226,362.00
Due to other governments	9,299.00					9,299.00
Bonds payable			570,000.00			570,000.00
Notes payable					734,654.00	734,654.00
Total Liabilities	150,944.55	(280.97)	769,946.00	26,850.70	734,654.00	1,682,114.28
Fund Equity:						
Reserved for encumbrances	37,453.46					37,453.46
Reserved for expenditures	225,675.00					225,675.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	72,657.80					72,657.80
Reserved for appropriation deficit	(2,976.69)					(2,976.69)
Undesignated fund balance	396,204.83	1,932,550.32	(97,227.66)	175,348.24		2,406,875.73

**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**CAPITAL PROJECTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Fund Balances June 30, 2020	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance/Entry
<b>Capital Projects:</b>					
NHRES Roof	\$ 24,646.21	\$ 26,565.62	\$ -	\$ 1,919.41	\$ 24,646.21
Town Hall Rehabilitation	\$ 37,349.29	\$ 37,349.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,349.29
Landfill	\$ 73,295.54	\$ (16,966.11)	\$ 213,988.00	\$ 123,726.35	\$ 73,295.54
Police Cruiser	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,650.00
Police AWD SUV	\$ 0.31	\$ -	\$ 53,375.00	\$ 53,374.69	\$ 0.31
Book Binding	\$ 1,066.74	\$ 1,066.74	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,066.74
Narrowband Replace Radio	\$ 430.00	\$ 430.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 430.00
West Street Reconstruction	\$ 4,110.49	\$ 4,435.49	\$ -	\$ 325.00	\$ 4,110.49
East Street Culvert	\$ 2,601.85	\$ 2,601.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,601.85
Computer Technology	\$ 1,348.00	\$ 1,348.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,348.00
Transfer Containers	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 1,540.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,540.00
Highway Plow/Dump Truck	\$ (212,500.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 212,500.00	\$ (212,500.00)
Highway Pickup Truck	\$ (6.00)	\$ -	\$ 31,475.00	\$ 31,481.00	\$ (6.00)
Broadband-Last Mile Grant	\$ (32,760.09)	\$ 450,758.68	\$ 689,837.00	\$ 1,173,355.77	\$ (32,760.09)
<b>Total Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$ (97,227.66)</b>	<b>\$ 510,779.56</b>	<b>\$ 988,675.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,596,682.22</b>	<b>\$ (97,227.66)</b>

## BUDGET FY2020 EXPENDITURES

**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND  
EXPENDITURES -  
BUDGETARY BASIS - (NON-GAAP) -  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**



**Expenditures:**

Current Fiscal Year:

	<u>Actual</u>
	<u>Budgetary Basis</u>
General Government	\$ 283,726.37
Protection of Persons & Property	\$ 191,471.68
Education	\$ 1,586,173.55
Public Works	\$ 398,455.69
Health & Human Services	\$ 58,706.43
Culture & Recreation	\$ 14,070.04
State & Other Assessments	\$ 2,111.34
Employee Benefits	\$ 95,772.04
General Insurance	\$ 48,308.00
Debt	\$ 21,570.39
Special Articles	\$ 48,381.26
<b>Total Current Fiscal Year Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 2,748,746.79</b>



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### **Animal Control**

There were **117** Animal Control Calls for Service (CFS) and officer initiated activities in FY 2020.

ACO Kate Nevins joined the Animal Control department in June 2020. ACO Warren Kirkpatrick & ACO Kate Nevins are available for any animal calls needing assistance. For urgent animal concerns please contact Northampton Dispatch at (413) 586-1508. Dog license forms are available in the Town Clerk's office and online.

Goshen Animal Control provides public education regarding bylaws and safety concerns involving animals and investigates all complaints concerning animals in Goshen. We respond to concerns for nuisance wildlife and provide a variety of reports including bite reports, incident reports, and monthly reports.

Respectfully Submitted,

ACO Kate Nevins

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### **Animal Inspector**

The Select Board nominates an Animal Inspector annually and the State Division of Animal Health appoints the Animal Inspector, as it does for every city and town in the Commonwealth. The primary duty of the Animal Inspector is rabies control in the domestic animal population. The Animal Inspector has the authority and responsibility to quarantine any animal.

The Animal Inspector works closely with the Animal Control Officer when there is a rabies concern, especially because of an animal bite. In such cases, the Animal Control Officer will contact the Animal Inspector. Any domestic mammal, which bites a human or animal, must be quarantined for a period of ten days to determine the risk of rabies transmission. The Animal Inspector initiates and releases the quarantine.

The Animal Inspector is also responsible for barn inspections and may be called to assist with domestic animal disease quarantines in the event of an outbreak. The barn inspections are typically done in the late summer/early fall and must be completed by January 1. The purpose of inspections, in addition to getting a good count of the domestic animal population, is to ensure the health and welfare of the animals.

In 2019 there were 43 farms with 343 farm animals including fowl.

In 2020, due to state guidance with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic inspections were not completed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas Cockoros

Animal Inspector



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### **Board of Assessors**

This year the Assessors' Office brings change to the Town of Goshen and FY 2020 was a difficult year in the Assessor's office as we had to deal many challenges with Covid-19. The Assessor's field work moved slowly this year with only 55 inspections completed out of the required 103. This reduction in inspections was the result of the limited access due to Covid-19. The Board appreciates the warmth, understanding and hospitality that was and is continued to be extended to us by our neighbors when we arrive to measure, list or inspect their homes and other buildings under these unprecedented times. These state mandated inspections help us to correct any errors or omissions that may exist on the property record cards and maintain a consistency within the town. We strive to maintain our records in the most correct and complete form possible.

The Board of Assessors is not only responsible for all the real property in town; it is also responsible to assess the personal property in the town as well. As always the Board of Assessors must abide by the rules issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Each year, just before the tax rate is set, the Board of Selectmen must hold a Classification Hearing that is advertised and open to the public, during which the assessors make a presentation recommending either a split rate or a single rate. Each year we have recommended a single rate. All property in Goshen that is assessed uses the same tax rate whether it is residential, commercial, industrial or personal.

Summary of 2018, 2019 and 2020:

	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
<u>Local Expenditures:</u>			
Appropriations	\$2,268,490.00	\$2,378,435.61	\$2,467,144.21
Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$2,135.00	\$2,188.00	\$2,357.00
State & Cherry Sheet Charges	\$2,047.00	\$1,729.00	\$2,017.00
Assessors' Overlay	\$29,132.93	\$19,552.03	\$19,838.67
<b>Gross Amount to be Raised</b>	<b>\$2,301,804.93</b>	<b>\$2,401,904.64</b>	<b>\$2,491,356.88</b>
<u>Estimated Receipts and Available Funds:</u>			
Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$231,039.00	\$238,104.00	\$243,575.00
Local Estimated Receipts	\$200,700.00	\$212,700.00	\$212,700.00
Free Cash	\$235,881.00	\$155,149.68	\$249,514.54
Other Available Funds	\$283,385.00	\$470,374.00	\$490,715.50
<b>Total Estimated Receipts &amp; Available Funds:</b>	<b>\$951,005.00</b>	<b>\$1,076,327.68</b>	<b>\$1,196,505.04</b>
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$3,339,497.00	\$3,577,763.74	\$3,864,395.25
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds	-\$951,005.00	-\$1,076,327.68	-\$1,196,505.04
<b>Net Amount to be Raised</b>	<b>\$2,388,492.00</b>	<b>\$2,501,436.06</b>	<b>\$2,667,890.21</b>
Real Property Values	\$2,201,134.00	\$2,311,788.97	\$2,393,987.03
Personal Property Values	\$67,356.80	\$66,646.16	\$73,157.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,268,490.80</b>	<b>\$2,378,435.13</b>	<b>\$2,467,144.21</b>
Tax Rate	\$15.62	\$14.69	\$15.11
Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Rate is \$16.61 per thousand.			

The Board continues to meet each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:30 PM. You are always welcome to stop in at our meeting or contact us at (413) 268-8236, extension 302; voicemail is available or feel free to email us at [assessors@goshen-ma.us](mailto:assessors@goshen-ma.us). During the summer months of June, July, August and part of September, the Board is usually out inspecting on the first, second, and third Wednesday of each month.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cassandra L. Morrey  
Gina M. Papineau, MAA  
Diane E. Bushee

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### **Board of Health**

**Membership:** The Board of Health is made up of Michael Kurland (chair), Nick Cockoros, and Laura Barrus. The Board has been extremely active this past year related to a number of issues. Our biggest challenge was the volume of work which needed to be accomplished due to the myriad of activities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic (which was further complicated by the illnesses of two of our members).

**Transfer station:** Staffed by two employees and open on Saturdays, the transfer station has operated successfully with few problems. Long time dedicated staff member Roger Culver retired this past year and he will be sorely missed. We passed our required annual inspection. We participated in the annual Hazardous Waste Day in October. We fulfilled all of the requirements of our RDP grant and received grant funding which essentially covered our HRMC assessment. Attended all HRMC meetings and fulfilled all data submission requirements. We worked closely with HRMC administrator Kathleen Casey and Town Administrator Dawn Scaparotti to bid out hauling and disposal contracts and recommended awarding contracts to the lowest compliant competitive bidders by the Select Board.

Challenges have included the transition to new contractors; the greatly increased charges due to an increase by the State in hauler wage rates and the sharp decrease in recycling reimbursement. We went from receiving money for our recyclables to paying money to dispose of them. This is a challenge for the Town and we must review our charges and assure that they cover costs and are in line with other Towns. One major accomplishment was the long needed replacement of our plastics recycle deck. It was replaced with an outstanding structure by a local contractor and received rave reviews by our inspector and was paid for by grant funding.

**Budget:** BOH has spent many hours reviewing all aspects of the budget with Dawn Scaparotti and assuring that our funding can cover all aspects of accomplishing our many responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner. This is a true challenge as the expectations of a local BOH have increased greatly and identified needs include clerical support and a public health nurse. There are plans for addressing these needs. Fortunately, all of the resources spent in dealing with COVID-19 were taken care of by COVID grant funding received by both the Town of Goshen as well as the Foothills Health District.

**Health Agent:** (See separate report provided by Health Agent Mark Bushee). The services of the Health Agent are provided under contract through the Foothills Health District (Goshen, Williamsburg, Westhampton, and Whately). Mark is responsible for inspections of septic systems, wells, housing, camps, restaurants, etc and confirming all are up to date. He is also responsible for coordinating the public health response to COVID-19 and performed a magnificent job this past year.

**Public Health Preparedness:** Goshen BOH members attended meetings of MAPHCO and the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition and participated in drill exercises and planning for a vaccination clinic in conjunction with Williamsburg.

**Landfill:** We worked with the Select Board, Tighe and Bond (Engineers), DEP, and the Conservation Committee to assure that the landfill project was completed appropriately and will implement recommended testing as required.

**COVID-19 Pandemic Response:** Our biggest challenge this past year was performing multiple public health functions related to outbreak management and containment as necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Working many hours each week following the almost daily updated guidance provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, we joined with many partners in responding to this public health emergency. Through the end of calendar year 2020, Goshen experienced 16 confirmed cases of

COVID-19 which required the isolation and quarantining of many close contacts of confirmed cases . We were in constant contact with many towns and MADPH while performing contact tracing in order to prevent the spread of this contagious virus. Contact tracing was initially performed by the Chair of the Goshen BOH utilizing a state data base system called MAVEN. We were then able to arrange to obtain contact tracing services provided by public health nurses through the City of Northampton for approximately 4 months. After that point we were extremely fortunate to be able to work jointly with the Foothills Health District (FHD) to hire an outstanding nurse (and coincidentally Goshen resident) Connie Schwaiger who worked diligently for countless hours each day tracking down contacts. She successfully made contact with almost every single “close contact” of COVID-19 confirmed cases. Our partners in this gargantuan outbreak management task included but were not limited to the following. Larry Holmberg (Goshen’s Emergency Management Director) was an outstanding colleague in tirelessly fulfilling his duties as per our Incident Management Plan and structure. He procured necessary PPE, supplies and resources and provided professional guidance in all aspects of outbreak management and control as well as enabling our Town government to remain functioning in a safe manner. We worked closely with the Board of the Foothills Health District to obtain grant funding for our initiatives and to procure many of the necessary resources and share much expertise in our endeavor. We received support and guidance from the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition as well as the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition. We also formed close partnerships with the Hampshire Regional School District and New Hingham School in order to help protect our children and staff. We also worked closely with Dawn Scaparotti who administered the extremely complicated CARES grant received by Goshen and worked tirelessly to procure necessary supplies and safety items and develop necessary policies and procedures to keep Town government functioning and our staff safe. At the end of the calendar year our focus included developing the resources for vaccinating the residents of our Town.

**Lessons learned:** It takes a full team effort to assure the public health of our citizens, particularly during a pandemic. We discovered that fully meeting our statutory obligations requires additional collaborative agreements, funding by the State, additional staffing to assure resiliency and a robust and diverse Board. Additional qualified residents must join the BOH to assure its effectiveness and ability to respond. Additionally we learned that the Massachusetts DPH does NOT have the personnel or resources to assist us in an emergency. The BOH is legally responsible for carrying out the directives of the Commonwealth. They provide the guidance- we implement the directives. We must assure that our BOH is poised to provide that level of service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Kurland

Board of Health, Chair

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### **Foothills Health Agent**

During 2020, the department witnessed 10 perc tests. Septic system permits were issued for 10 new systems or system components. Three inspections or re-inspections of food establishments were completed. A total of \$11,200 was collected in fees.

The following is a general breakdown of the many responsibilities handled on a regular basis by your Board of Health and the Health Agent:

- Witnessing percolation tests for all new and replacement septic systems
- Permit review and on-site inspections for all septic repairs and installations
- Housing code inspections and enforcement
- Infectious disease investigation and reporting
- Tobacco regulation enforcement
- On-site inspections for all beaver conflict permits
- Handling the numerous public health-related questions and complaints
- Camp inspections
- Bathing Beach test review
- Food establishment permitting and inspections

I may be reached at 413-268-8404. In-person help must be scheduled in advance. Written messages or mail should be directed to me at P.O. Box 447 Haydenville, MA 01039, or via email at [Foothills@Burgy.org](mailto:Foothills@Burgy.org). I look forward to another productive year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark R. Bushee  
Health Agent  
Foothills Health District



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### **Building Inspection Department**

In fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020), the Building Department issued 58 permits and conducted no inspections for places of assembly.

Permits issued are as follows:

Breakdown of permits issued:

- New construction = 4
- Windows/siding/doors = 4
- Roofs = 10
- Solar = 5
- Wood stove installation = 9
- Insulation = 4
- Decks/porches = 2
- Additions/remodels = 8
- Miscellaneous (demos, foundation, pools etc) = 10
- Garage/barns/storage = 2

Total fees collected:

\$13,875

Total construction costs:

\$2,222,361.90

The Building Department was staffed by Phil Harris the Building Commissioner and Pat Morey the Administrative Assistant. Until March 2020, when Town Offices closed due to the Pandemic, the Building Department maintained office hours on Monday evening from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Despite the Pandemic, the Building Department continued to review and issue building permits and conducted inspections by appointment.

The Building Department can be reached via office phone, 413-268-8236 X116 or by email, [inspector@goshen-ma.us](mailto:inspector@goshen-ma.us). Our current office hours are Thursdays 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. although, Town Offices are not open to the public.

Inspections are by appointment and are usually conducted Monday evening and/or Friday during the day.

Other information may be found on the Town of Goshen website: <http://www.goshen-ma.us/home/departments/building-inspector> including downloadable permit application forms and fee schedules. Applications are also available at Town Hall Offices.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phil Harris, Building Commissioner

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## **Capital Planning**

The Town's formal Capital Plan was developed in 2016. Capital is defined as equipment, vehicles, technology, or improvements that cost \$5,000 or more. The Capital Plan is a living document that is intended to be updated as new information is available but at least annually. It should be reviewed as part of the annual budgeting and appropriations process. The first five years are typically considered most relevant in a capital plan. For long range planning purposes and to make it easier for the Town going forward, we have extended the information to span a 20+ year period.

### **Capital Stabilization Fund**

A capital stabilization fund was established and has been aggressively funded by free cash and consolidation of other stabilization fund balances. This has been an important step forward in planning for our Town's capital needs. Best practice guidelines include funding the capitalization stabilization contribution line code in our budget annually with an amount equal to 3% – 5% of our operating budget or tax levy. This year with the passage of the Proposition 2 ½ override, we have met this milestone.

No funds can be spent from the capital stabilization account without it being approved at the Annual Town Meeting. The 5-year capital plan is presented at the Annual Town Meeting and focuses primarily on the items submitted for approval for the upcoming year, on the ATM Warrant. It also includes those capital requests submitted but not yet approved for the remaining 4-year period, 2020 - 2023.

### **Progress & Concerns**

We are delighted that the heavy lifting is behind us in terms of capturing the data and creating the model. There are more refinements to make to ensure efficiency and ease of use, but this work has strengthened our Town's financial infrastructure. It has created a tool for capturing essential information and for evaluating the financial impact of our capital decisions. The tool facilitates having all financial matters, both operating and capital, presented at the May Annual Town Meeting. Over time it should aid in making clear the trade-offs of limited resources so they can more comprehensively and transparently be discussed and considered.

With the passage of the Proposition 2 ½ Override in Sept of 2020 our ongoing concern that we were not able to include critical contributions to our capital stabilization fund as part of the annual budget appropriated by the town has been addressed. Contributions will still need to be supplemented each year with Free Cash to ensure the fund is growing at a rate sufficient to meet capital requirements.

### **Reconstituted Capital Planning Committee**

At the July 25, 2020 Town Meeting the Town voted to amend its General By-Laws pursuant to M.G.L. c.41, §106B, to establish a Capital Planning Committee, that will replace any previous Capital Planning Committee. This change created a Capital Planning Committee that would conform to the current M.G.L. requirements on a structure for the Capital Planning Committee and the Committee needs to be reappointed.

The following is the language that outlines the membership as well as purpose and role of the Capital Planning Committee.

The Capital Planning Committee shall be made up of five members, each appointed for 3 year staggered terms. All members shall be appointed by the Select Board, and initially, one member shall be appointed for (1) one year, two members for (2) two years and two members shall be appointed for (3) three years. Two members are to be appointed from amongst the Finance Committee by the Select Board. The remaining three committee members are appointed by the Select Board based upon the best available candidates with an appropriate background and knowledge to fulfill the needs and duties of the Committee. All appointments shall be based upon the beginning and ending of the fiscal year for the terms described above. Any vacancy for an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner so as to complete the term of the original appointment.

The fundamental purpose of the Capital Planning Committee shall be to enhance the Town's capacity to identify, prioritize, and understand the financial implications of capital projects with a useful life of at least five (5) years, and an aggregate cost of at least \$5,000. And, to develop a capital plan relative to the aforementioned purpose. Further, the Capital Planning Committee will work with the Finance Committee to develop policies consistent with best practices.

► The Capital Planning Committee should solicit requests from each municipal department that would have a capital request meeting the above criteria. The departmental requests should include a brief statement of justification of the request including why it is needed; what is the useful life of the item, what is the estimated cost of the item and why it is necessary in the year for which it is being requested.

► The Capital Planning Committee shall gather information, review and prioritize recommendations regarding capital project needs and expenditures that will be funded by annual appropriations in accordance with the financial constraints of the Town.

► Develop and present a capital plan budget and multi-year capital program to the Finance Committee and Select Board with the recommendations of the Capital Planning Committee for what should and should not be included in any given year.

► In conjunction with the Finance Committee analyze the municipality's ability to afford major expenditures by examining recent and anticipated trends in revenues, expenditures and debt burden and propose a method of payment that will be supported by the ability of the Town to pay for it with current revenue; available reserves; debt or debt excluded and debt overrides from the limits of Proposition 2 ½.

► The funding strategy for the Capital Stabilization account should be consistent with best practices such as targeting 3% - 5% of the levy limit or 3% - 5% of the annual budget, prior to debt exclusions.

► The Capital Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, should recommend a method for financing each project.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Scaparotti,  
Capital Planning Committee Chair

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### **Community Preservation Committee**

Goshen voters approved the Community Preservation Act (CPA) at the May 2007 Town Election with a 3% surcharge on real estate taxes and an exemption for those who qualify for low-income housing or low or moderate income senior housing. Communities that adopt the CPA in Massachusetts are eligible to receive up to 100% matching funds from the Community Preservation Fund, an independent state trust fund.

The duties of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) are to study the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation. The CPC reviews applications and makes recommendations to Town Meeting for project funding.

The CPC is a seven member committee, made up of one member from each of the following boards and commissions:

	Affordable Housing Representative
Pat Morey	Open Space Committee
Norene Roberts	Historical Commission
Jim Barrett	Planning Board
Sandra Papush	Conservation Commission
	Recreation Committee
Joe Roberts	Member at Large

Many thanks to Don Boisvert who served as the Affordable Housing Representative and led the Senior Housing project to completion. Thanks also to Bob Labrie who served as Historical Commission's designee and to Shannon Wade who served as Recreation's designee. Your years of service are very appreciated.

CPC generally meets at Town Offices on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm; the public is always welcome. Although CPC did not meet in 2020, plans are to begin meeting again in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Papush, Chair

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### **Conservation Commission**

The Goshen Conservation Commission administers the regulations for wetland resource areas covered under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The Conservation Commission signs off on all building/demolition permit applications to make sure that there are no wetland issues. A site visit is scheduled prior to signing the application, so it is important to allow time for this. If wetlands are involved in a project, a filing is often required and a public meeting/hearing is held.

Some of the projects we worked on this year were repairs of existing septic systems, the East St. walkway project, site visits for home installations, site visit for solar arrays, and stand pipe for the Fire Department.

The Conservation Commission meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Town Offices. Site visits are usually scheduled at these meetings. We encourage prospective applicants to allow adequate time to complete the necessary paperwork, schedule a site visit, and have their project reviewed at a regularly scheduled meeting. If there are any questions about wetland resource areas or any information is needed, please contact us or come to a meeting.

Conservation Commission is a five member board. Members are:

Charles Amo

Sandra Papush

Mike Duquette

Tim Cairns

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Amo, Chair

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### **Cemetery Report**

This year we did not have a Memorial Day parade or program. American flags were put in the special holders, but, because of Covid-19, no programs were planned. The Veteran Honor Guard went to the cemetery on Memorial Day like they do every year to honor our veterans.

There were 3 lots sold, and there was one cremation burial.

The Morrey family has continued to keep the grass mowed and fall leaves taken care of.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Culver



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### Council on Aging

January 2020 started the same as any other year. We had a brunch with Roger Culver cooking pancakes for thirty seniors. Chief Sue Labrie joined us afterward to speak about kitchen safety. The travel group went to Beaver Brook and had a nice luncheon. The coffee hour included a valentine craft time. Attendees made a valentine with a battery-operated candle in it. The driving conditions for the February luncheon were quite icy, but it did not stop many from coming. We enjoyed a nice meal and had laughs while playing LCR. On Valentine's Day, a group went to Fishtails in Hatfield for lunch. Pat Wheeler began a knitting, crochet and tea get together in the dining room of the town hall. The group consisted of all ages and met a few times.

Then March arrived, and with it, the Covid-19 pandemic. We were able to have our corned beef luncheon, downstairs in the town hall. Forty-six attended, which made it our largest luncheon. By the time we left, we knew we were going into a country-wide shut down. Soon after the shutdown started, the COA team started calling as many seniors as possible, to make sure they did not need anything and that they were ok. By the end of April, the Board was figuring out how zoom worked and what we should do with it. A lot of our older generation did not have internet and the internet for the rest of us was so slow because the school children had to use it in order to continue their education.

The Board, with the help of our fire chief, organized and put together 54 care packages and delivered them to any seniors that were 80 and older. The bags consisted of games, puzzle books, sweets, fruit and a variety of snacks. It ended up being a nice treat for them.

By April 15<sup>th</sup> Joan Griswold figured out how to do her muscle strengthening classes on zoom. She was pleasantly surprised by how well it went. The classes had almost as many students in a week then she had had in the town hall before the shutdown. She continued doing this for Goshen, Plainfield, and Chesterfield, and then Williamsburg joined in.

In July, we tried to have a few coffee hours out in the town parking lot. A few seniors came out, but the weather was so hot, and at this point we were wearing masks in public. We did this a few times through September.

Autumn saw some restaurants back open with 25% capacity. With the help of Jerry Bird and the Spruce Corner Restaurant, we were able to serve curbside luncheons to our seniors for the months of November and December. We served a traditional turkey dinner in November and a choice of Roast Beef or Stuffed Chicken in December. In December, Red's Bakery opened and gave out desserts.

I would like to say that if this Covid-19 pandemic had to happen, I am so glad I had the Board that I had: Henrietta Munroe, Kathy Boisvert, Sandy Papash, Nancy Wood, Lorraine Brisson and Roxanne Cunningham.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Kellogg- Culver, Coordinator

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### Cultural Council

The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded \$4,800 to the local Goshen Cultural Council for the 2019-2020 granting year. The Massachusetts Cultural Council receives its funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. The mission of the Goshen Cultural Council is to offer the Goshen community an opportunity to enjoy, learn and grow through talented performers and workshops with a view towards diversity in program planning and inter-generational activities. The Goshen Cultural Council appreciates and considers all projects but prioritizes applications that support Goshen town artists and presenters, local schools and organizations, community involvement, and new programs.

For the 2019-2020 cycle, grants were awarded to the following town-affiliated groups: Council on Aging (fiddler performance, Ashfield Community Band concert and writing project), Goshen Women's Club for a town-wide event, New Hingham PTO (Geography game show, Starlab portable planetarium and a musical performance about pollinators), Hampshire Regional High School (Spring Musical, Mass Audubon's program on Life in a Changing Climate and field trips to Metropolitan Museum of Art and a French circus performance in Amherst), and Goshen Free Public Library (music education workshop). A grant was also approved for a staged reading at Three Sisters Sanctuary.

The Council gave grants to programs and activities in nearby towns: Chesterfield 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Plainfield Congregational Church Concerts at 7, Ashfield Community Theater performance, Double Edge Theater Summer Spectacle in Ashfield, Cummington Village Congregational Church Friday Night Café, a supper salon on culinary arts in Chesterfield, Community Dance Nights, Hilltown Families Suggests online newsletter and the Charlemont Speaker Forum. Many of the grants for 2020 could not be funded due to the pandemic shutdown. In accordance with state guidelines, the Council gave grantees extensions until December 31, 2021 and gave blanket approval for grantees to use virtual mediums to complete their projects.

In June 2020, Alison Bowen completed her term on the Council and Jane O'Riordan was appointed to fill that position. Many thanks to Alison for serving on the Council.

In September, the Council met to elect officers. Nancy Wood was elected Chair and Kristen Estelle was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Mina Kim, our state contact, attended the meeting and discussed changing priorities in light of the pandemic. Although the Council did not revise specific priorities because of the pandemic, the Council did approve moving diversity in programming and intergenerational activities from its general council description to its list of priorities. In October, the Council provided online a community input survey for Goshen residents to give comments and suggestions to the Council. Twenty-three residents responded. The Council will consider those responses in making future grant decisions.

Due to delays in the state budget process, the deadline for grant applications was extended to December 14, 2020 and as a result of this extension, the Council did not meet to approve grants for the next funding year until January 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wood, Rose Carr, Kristen Estelle, Jane O'Riordan, and Marya Zilberberg

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### **Office of Emergency Management**

2020 was a year like no other in most of our lifetimes. The pandemic changed how we did business and what we did. For nine weeks beginning in mid-March, I worked for the State to determine what assistance the communities of Western Mass needed and how to get assistance to them. PPE, cleaning supplies, sanitizers, etc. was requested by communities and then delivered. Working for the State put me in a unique position to know first-hand what was happening and procure items Goshen needed. I was also able help our surrounding communities by bringing supplies to them as well.

The response to the pandemic was and is a team effort. In March, a COVID Command Group was formed consisting of the Police, Fire, and Highway departments, Board of Health, Select Board, Town Administrator, Council on Aging, the Library Trustees, Highland Ambulance, and Emergency Management to decide on a unified basis on how to respond to the emergency. Our main goals were how we keep the Town functioning, how we keep personnel safe, especially first responders, and what do our residents need. Not everything went perfectly but we made it through the year.

Recognition should go to Interim Town Administrator Dawn Scaparotti who handled the CARES Act submissions which brought in over \$100,000 to help mitigate the response to the pandemic.

Special recognition goes to Michael Kurland, Board of Health Chair. Mike was an indispensable partner throughout the year as we talked at least once a week on response, planning, supplies, or just using each other as a sounding board as we vented. Mike, thank you for being there!

Fortunately, no major disaster hit the Town or the area but it is important to remember that disasters may strike at any time and you should be prepared to take action when they do. In school, we teach children what to do if a fire strikes based on a plan that they make. Does your family have a plan? Do you practice it? Everyone should prepare for an emergency, large or small, by making a family emergency plan that includes a "Go-Kit" containing items such as food, clothing, medications, copies of important documents, pet supplies, etc. Please contact me if you would like more information about creating a family emergency plan or a "Go-Kit".

As I said earlier, responding to a disaster is a team effort. A response to a major incident requires more than one department let alone one person. Emergency Management needs a trained group of people to staff the Emergency Operation Center, sometimes on a 24-hour basis. The work involves tracking of incidents, record keeping, monitoring the situation, public information and assisting in finding needed resources. The work is not hard or dangerous but it can be critical especially when federal funds become available. If you would be interested in helping the Town by becoming part of the EOC Team or want more information, please contact me at [emd.goshen.ma@gmail.com](mailto:emd.goshen.ma@gmail.com) or by calling 413-296-4247.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Holmberg

Emergency Management Director

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## Finance Committee

### **FY 2021 Budget, July Annual Town Meeting and September Election**

This was a busy year for the Finance Committee. As everyone experienced, the 2020 pandemic added its own layers of complexity to work & life in general. Beyond that, the work necessary to come to a recommendation to the Town on the FY 2021 budget was extremely intensive. Our committee's recommendations came about through research into best practices, detailed examination, analysis, and many discussions with our municipal departments, community partners and the Department of Revenue. We were unanimously affirmed in our belief that despite the unsettled times, there are issues we needed to address this year.

This was the culmination of work that started in 2015. When we presented the FY 2020 budget at the 2019 ATM, we indicated there was a potential for some significant changes in 2020 with the FY 2021 budget. That turned out to be accurate and necessary. We believe that the changes we recommend are essential. To let them go beyond this year would impact the community and our ability to provide necessary services, some of which are delivered by our municipal partners, including Highland Ambulance, our two regional schools and vocational high school, etc. We tempered our requests realizing that some will need to be introduced over the next several years, but firmly believe the ones we made were essential and will position us to enhance our operations and financial strength long-term.

Our work resulted in a comprehensive report for the July 25, 2020 Annual Town Meeting and a recommendation for 2 overrides from the limitations of Proposition 2 ½ in order to meet the reasonable expenses of our community partners and our municipal departments. The report outlined a financial strategy that builds on our progress and positions us to move steadily towards our financial and operational goals. The Selectboard Chair's work with our auditors and the new accountant has led to significant improvements in the Town's financial data and hence our ability to rely on reports and have data for analysis and review. We continue to work toward implementing best practices to strengthen our overall financial position.

The two overrides, one for \$70K and another for \$105K were passed in a Town Election in September 2020 and are included in the figures below, originally submitted as a contingent budget ( contingent on the passage of the two overrides).

The approved recommended FY 2021 budget is summarized below, by category and traditional departments:

Category	FY 2021 Approved Budget	
Community Partner Assessments	\$ 1,955,070	62%
Municipal Department Expenses	\$ 1,141,947	36%
Debt Exclusions	<u>\$ 68,833</u>	2%
Total FY 2021 Budget with Debt	\$ 3,165,850	100%

#### Traditional Departments

#### FY 2021

General Government	390,852
Public Safety	231,836
Public Works	441,525
Public Health & Sanitation	77,004
Community Services	79,055
Pensions and Insurance	185,027
Capital Stabilization Fund	92,000
Education	1,599,718
Debt Svc / Debt Exclusion Total	68,833
<b>Total FY 2021 Budget with Debt</b>	<b>3,165,850</b>

#### Stabilization Accounts and Free Cash

Over the years, the Town has appropriated funds into stabilization accounts to assist in Goshen's long-term financial management. A Town vote (two thirds majority) is required to move funds in or out of these accounts. The approximate stabilization fund balances prior to and after the July 2020 Annual Town Meeting actions are:

	Before July 2020 ATM	After July 2020 ATM
1. General Stabilization	\$ 267,060	\$ 267,060
2. Capital Stabilization	\$ 663,937	\$ 717,599
3. Fire Vehicle Stabilization	\$ 10,721	\$ 10,721
4. Audit Stabilization	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
5. Assessor Property Revaluation	\$ 32,332	\$ 32,728
6. Town Building Stabilization	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,260
7. Free Cash**	<u>\$ 224,675</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total Stabilization and Free Cash	\$1,216,381	\$ 1,043,922



### **Broadband Funding and Policy Decisions**

The Finance Committee participated in many discussions regarding the policies for the new Fiber Optic Broadband Network. We provided input to the MLP Manager and MLP Board regarding our perspective on the financial implications of policy decisions, based on the information available at the time. Many of the ongoing financial implications are a function of the number of people who sign up for the internet (take-rate). Many assumptions were made to model various scenarios. Final costs and revenues will not be known until we know the actual numbers of homes that sign up for the service. Some policy decisions may need to change and some will evolve based once the sign-up is complete at the end of 2021.

### **Capital Plan Funding & Best Practices**

The Town's formal Capital Plan was developed by the Capital Planning Committee in 2016 and is updated annually. In 2020 there were no meetings. The Finance Committee, who has consistently had two members participating on the Capital Committee, has worked collaboratively to coordinate funding and understand budget implications. In the last several years we have been aggressively funding the plan through Free Cash and other stabilization fund balances. With the passing of the Proposition 2 ½ override we are able for the first time to meet the \$92K threshold outlined in best practices guidelines. Those guidelines provide an amount equal to 3% – 5% of our operating budget or tax levy. For Goshen, this represents an annual figure of \$92K - \$155K. With our \$92K appropriation in this line code, we have reached a milestone and an important step forward in planning for our Town's future capital needs.

### **Municipal Bond Consideration**

With the large expenditures that we have facing us in the upcoming years, we need to consider consolidating our borrowing and issuing a municipal bond. This would require a rating agency review, typically by Standard & Poors. There are certain criteria that these agencies use in evaluating a town for a bond rating including stabilization account balances, Free Cash, revenues, expenses, debt ratios, management practices. To receive the best possible rating, which provides better borrowing terms, we need to implement best practices on multiple levels to include: annual audits, developing policies and procedures across many financial functions, understanding the various relevant financial ratios, etc. We will continue to work with the Select Board to take this into consideration when making recommendations regarding cash flow and funding of our operating and capital expenses.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Scaparotti,

Finance Committee Chair

Committee Members: Kristine Bissell, Ann Deres, Angela Otis, Gina Papineau, Dawn Scaparotti

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### **Goshen Fire Department**

2020 was an unprecedented year that will certainly go down in history. The COVID-19 pandemic seemed to bring the world as we knew it to a standstill. One thing that stayed constant was the commitment and dedication of the members of the Goshen Fire Department, whose volunteer members continually stepped up to the challenges that this year brought. Our Town's firefighters accepted personal risk as they responded to all types of emergency calls with the added danger of potential COVID-19 exposure. With great assistance from Emergency Management Director Larry Holmberg and town resident sewers, we were supplied with protective gear and face masks that were in short supply and desperately needed. We are very thankful to them for their help.

When COVID-19 cases were peaking in our area, the Department made the difficult decision to transition to virtual training to avoid potential transmission among our own members. As I write this, all but one member of our Department has been fully vaccinated and we have enthusiastically returned to in-person training.

We would like to thank the taxpayers of Goshen for their support and the voters for their approval of the replacements of our 1986 Brush Truck and 2007 Chief's vehicle. The new vehicles, a 2020 Ford F350 and a 2020 Toyota Tundra were well thought out by the Vehicle Committee and are much more reliable and efficient. The Goshen Firefighters' Association matched a \$2,000 Volunteer Firefighters' Assistance (VFA) Grant to help offset the cost of the skid assembly that was installed in the back of Brush 1. The skid is a self-contained unit that consists of a water tank, pump, hose reel, foam unit (and its associated plumbing), as well as tool and hose storage.

For the health and safety of our members, we applied for and received a State Firefighter Equipment Grant for \$2,500. With this, we purchased GORE particulate hoods to greatly reduce the risk of exposure to carcinogens and structural fire gloves which have a waterproof barrier to help prevent exposure to contaminants.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program entered its 24th year. We received a State S.A.F.E. Grant in the amount of \$3,065, which allowed Goshen Fire to teach 3 in-person fire and life safety lessons at New Hingham Regional Elementary School before the pandemic closed the school to outside visitors. By continuing to educate children, we have raised a fire safe generation. The State has seen a drastic reduction in home fires and fire deaths since the program began. The Department also received a Senior S.A.F.E. Grant in the amount of \$2,055 to teach fire and life safety lessons to Goshen's Senior Citizens. This grant allowed the Department to purchase and install 10-year, sealed-battery smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors in Seniors' homes. If you are a Senior Citizen and would like a firefighter to change detector batteries or replace old battery-operated detectors with new 10-year sealed battery detectors, please call the Fire Department at 268-7161 and leave a message. The grant has also made available temporary lock-boxes for Seniors' homes. These allow secure Fire Department keyed access to a home for emergency calls where the occupant may be unable to unlock the door for first responders.

We added two new firefighters, Mike Cunningham and Francis Dunham, and two new junior firefighters to our roster, Emily and Nate Godden. Because of normal attrition, the Department continually needs to add members to maintain coverage and we are always ready to welcome those willing and able to give it a try.

Our personnel meet weekly and devote hours to training and maintaining equipment in order to be ready for the next call. Training not only includes firefighting but also many types of rescue situations, extrication, medical calls, hazardous materials recognition, and traffic control.

The GFD was dispatched to a variety of situations in 2020, utilizing much of our training and equipment. In all, the Department responded to 117 emergency calls throughout the year, 9 more call than in 2019. The call breakdown was as follows:

- 76 Medical
- 11 Detectors Sounding (Smoke and/or Carbon Monoxide)
- 9 Motor Vehicle Collisions
- 6 Structure Fires (three were mutual aid to other towns)

- 6 Hazardous Conditions including wires and/or trees down
- 3 Rescues
- 3 Brush Fires / Illegal burns
- 1 Chimney Fire
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 1 Other

In addition to our weekly in-house training, we continue to have monthly Tri-Town drills with Chesterfield and Williamsburg (our automatic mutual aid fire departments). This provides us with the opportunity to train and become familiar with their equipment and personnel, allowing a seamless operation at mutual aid scenes. Department members also attend Hampshire County Fire Defense Firefighter training classes and Massachusetts Fire Academy training programs to strengthen their knowledge and skills.

The Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Program has been in effect for its eleventh year. Active adult firefighters who attended at least 50% of our training sessions and responded to calls, earned a stipend commensurate to their level of participation. This was equivalent to \$5.52 per hour. In total, Department members dedicated more than 2,533 hours to the Town in 2020. The Incentive Program is a great way for the community to acknowledge and thank the volunteer firefighters that gave so much of themselves.

**When *someone* dials 911, we all assume *someone* will come to help.... Right?**

That ***someone*** who responds to your call for help could be your neighbor, a family member, or a person who lives on the other side of Town. They could be a school teacher, student, electrician, office worker, truck driver, accountant, or nurse. The alarm bell continues to sound for new volunteers to join the Fire Department family. If you haven't joined because you weren't asked, **we are asking!** Our members all have busy schedules, but we still find the time to meet, train, and respond to calls for the sole purpose of helping others. The Department also has a Junior Firefighter Program for responsible individuals aged 16 - 17.

We meet each Tuesday evening at the Goshen Fire Station at 6:30 p.m. Please come join us or call the station to find out more and help make a difference!

Many thanks to the active Department members who answered the call in 2020:

Bill Connell	Mike Cunningham	Kim Dresser	Francis Dunham
Steve Estelle	Emily Godden	Nate Godden*	Dale Gougeon
Bob Labrie	Hannah Labrie	Sue Labrie	Cam Lacey
Jill Lacey	Jake Lulek	Adrien Neveu	Dillon Neveu*
Marianne Neveu	Mason Neveu*	Monica Neveu	Michaela Rock*
Jonathan Schwaiger	River Williams	West Williams*	Keith Wright

\* designates Junior Firefighter status

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan M. Labrie, Fire Chie

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### **Highland Ambulance EMS, Inc.**

This year we were challenged when Covid 19 came to town. At first it was not well understood and we had to deal with staff self-quarantining due to suspected exposure, hard to find and expensive PPE equipment, extra cleaning supplies to keep our ambulances safe even with an increased call volume. Through all of this our community members came through with selfless donations of face masks and shields, home made gowns, food and cleaning supplies as well as donations to help us keep going. All this was done without our asking, you just stepped forward where you saw the need. We are humbled and grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity and are proud to serve you.

**Operations:** Highland Ambulance is the primary ambulance service provider for the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg. Highland also provides primary back-up in the town of Worthington in support of Hilltown Ambulance of Huntington. Paramedics are on duty at Highland's station in Goshen from 6 AM until midnight seven days a week. During the midnight to 6 AM time period, Highland EMT's are occasionally assisted by Paramedics from other ambulance companies when the service of a Paramedic is required. Highland's active roster as of June 30, 2020 consisted of 27 members including 14 Paramedics and 13 EMT's. Our Service Director and Assistant Service Director are two full-time paramedics and we have one full time EMT to solidify our staffing pattern. We have increased our administrative assistant's hours to help with increasing clerical and bookkeeping duties.

Dr. Peter Morse is our Medical Director.

**Mission.** The mission of Highland Ambulance EMS , Inc. is to provide the full range of emergency medical services to the member communities. These services include:

- Providing training and certification testing for all first responders
- Developing and practicing emergency response plans with the schools and camps in the member towns
- Conducting health and safety classes for the schools
- Working with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Homeland Security to develop emergency response plans for the member towns
- Providing mutual aid and paramedic intercept services to the neighboring communities
- Providing transport services
- Providing standby service for major emergency situations, e.g. house fires
- Providing standby service for major community events such as the Chesterfield Parade, the Ashfield Fall Festival and the Cummington Fair
- Responding to all 911 calls that may require emergency medical services
- Providing CPR programs to community members

**Emergency Responses:** During FY 19/20 Highland responded to 660 emergency calls. These are broken down by town as follows:

Ashfield;	114 or 17.27 %	Chesterfield;	67 or 10.15%
Cummington;	66 or 10.8%	Goshen;	88 or 13.35%
Plainfield;	67 or 10.15%	Williamsburg;	232 or 35.15%
Other;	26 or 3.93%		

**Training:** The following is a partial list of special training events held:

- CPR and First Responder trainings for Emergency Service Personnel, Police, & Firefighters
- Medical Management Classes
- ALS/BLS interface classes for area EMTs
- Basic EMT refresher courses
- Paramedic refresher courses
- 12 Lead EKG and Advanced EKG courses
- Bio-hazard class
- Fire Rehab class

**Community Involvement:** ( Due to Covid most of the events listed below did not happen.) Here are some of the ways Highland would normally have participated in our communities in support of them; Ambulance coverage for community events including the Chesterfield 4th of July Parade, the Cummington Fair and the Ashfield Fall Festival. Safe Day at Sanderson Academy, New Hingham and Anne T. Dunphy schools In January of 2019 Highland hosted a Board & Finance committee meeting with all 6 participating towns. EMT coverage at the Chesterfield Gorge for a 5K run also EMTs for the Junior Olympics in Goshen and a Polar Plunge fundraiser at the DAR State Forest.

**Operating Expenses in FY 19/20: \$716,385.58**

**Cash on hand June 30 2020:**

- Operating Expenses \$716,385.58
- Operating Funds \$133,977.48
- Ambulance Fund \$205,599.08
- Memorial Fund \$33,763.60
- Dresser Fund \$4,092.17
- Donations \$ 132,555.74

Our six towns contributed \$386,478.91 of our total operational budget, based upon town assessments. The balance came from billings to insurance companies, Medicare, Medicaid and contributions.

**Building:** There were some small repairs/changes that were not anticipated but needed to be completed in the new facility. These expenses were met either through our current budget or from donations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Highland Ambulance Board of Directors:

Ashfield - Patricia Thayer  
Chesterfield - Spencer Timm  
Cummington - Amanda Savoie

Goshen - Cassandra Morrey  
Plainfield - Edward Morann  
Williamsburg - Denise Bannister

At Large - Bernard Forgea (Cummington)  
At Large - Nate Rosewarne  
At Large - Douglas Mollison (Ashfield)

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### **Highway Department**

Highway Department projects for the 2020 season were as follows:

Corner Road was overlaid with a leveling coat and a new top coat of asphalt. This work was done by Warner Bros Construction and was paid for using road improvement funds. The Highway Department cut the brush and cleaned the ditches before the paving.

This year's Chapter 90 funds were used on Pond Hill road and Bissel road. The Highway Department cut the shoulders, brush and waterways were cleaned out where it was necessary. A new top coat of blacktop was applied by Warner Bros Construction and the shoulders had gravel applied by the Highway Department where it was needed.

This past year we seem to have several high wind storms. The Highway Department has spent considerable time cleaning up the trees that have fallen. In several cases these trees are on private property but fall into the public way and onto the power lines. We need to wait the power company to come and make it safe for us to reopen the roads. Last year we had a few incidents where people moved our barriers and cones and drove through. I would hope that it was someone from outside Goshen. WE only block roads for public safety and do our best to get National Grid here so we can safely reopen the road. Please respect the road closed signs if you come across them.

I do appreciate your calls alerting us to problems that you see and would like to thank everyone for helping throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd R. Dewkett

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### **The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative**

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns attain sustainability and environmental objectives through solid waste and recycling programs.

The member-Towns that comprise the HRMC include: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for 2020 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); John Chandler, Vice Chair (Chesterfield); and, David Blakesley, Treasurer (Westhampton). In 2020, HRMC services included:

- Conducting annual DEP transfer station inspections and work as a liaison between Towns & MADEP on transfer station compliance matters.
- Bid Administration for a new 3-year municipal waste hauling and disposal contract.
- Representation and bid liaison on a new 5-year recycling contract with extension options.
- Work with regional entities to challenge increased prevailing wage rates for hauling.
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.
- Program management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste (including free recycling of mercury thermostats and re-chargeable batteries), books, and Freon evacuation.

- Outreach on transfer station operations and recycling initiatives.
- Submittal of member-Town DEP annual surveys, grants, and reports.
- Financial administration of HRMC programs and monitoring of grant activities.

The day to day business and program operations of the HRMC are managed by a contracted Administrator, who also serves as a representative to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Municipal Advisory Board (Vice-Chair), the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group; and, interfaces with local, regional, and state officials. Board meetings are held on alternate months. The March 16, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to the Covid 19 social distancing guidelines. All subsequent meetings were held virtually. Throughout the pandemic, the HRMC provided guidance on operations protocols.

The HRMC has an annual operation's assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY20, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$ 63,289. The Assessments offset base operating expenses. HRMC recycling program collection costs are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations and program operations.

In 2020, all HRMC member-towns were eligible for and received Recycling Dividend Program Grants under the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Applications were submitted for them through the HRMC. In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 47,250.00 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programs. Goshen was awarded \$4,550.

During the past year, the HRMC member-towns collectively diverted 965 tons of recyclable materials to the MRF; the Town of Goshen recycled 56.81 tons in 2020. Eight of the ten member-towns have adopted recycling goals of 50% with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of materials being recycled at their transfer stations and to reduce waste being landfilled. In 2020, the Town of Goshen had a recycling rate of 30.9% compared with 31.2% in 2019.

Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator

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### **Historical Commission**

#### **Report for July, 2019-June, 2020**

The year 2019 ended with Norene Roberts the only one of two members of the GHC, having been appointed by the Select Board on June 21, 2019. The other member, long-standing, was Bob Labrie who had announced his retirement from the GHC but did not actually submit his resignation until August, 2019. The immediate task for 2020 was to find more members because the GHC needs at least three (out of five) for a quorum to do business. Joe Roberts was appointed in July, 2019, and Sandra Greenwood was appointed shortly thereafter.

The first meeting with new members for 2020 was August 7, 2019. Joe was elected chair, Sandra was elected vice-chair, and Norene was elected secretary. The previous commission had not met in over a half year, had not given the town clerk meeting minutes since 2013, and had claimed that the town building inventory of significant building was virtually completed. By the end of December, the commissioners had suggested Norene Roberts for the slot on the Community Preservation Committee

to replace Bob Labrie; designated Norene as the Section 106 contact with the Hilltown CDC because of her years as a private contractor on preservation projects; corrected, printed out and delivered historical commission meeting minutes to the town clerk for the period December 2013 to June, 2018; and obtained a key and common computer access to the back room and found some file cabinet space. Chris Skelly at the Massachusetts Historical Commission was notified of the entirely new officers on our local commission (names, titles, and phone numbers). The Select Board appointed Pat Perrault our fourth new member on January 13, 2020.

We also worked on trying to get the former members of the commission to return commission materials they had at home; updated the Historical Commission explanation of what we do; and discussed what to do with the over 55 boxes of books from the Williams House that had been moved to the Museum and were in the way. The new members chose the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. for its monthly meetings. One dehumidifier was plugged and not working and the other had to be emptied frequently. These and other housekeeping tasks continued into the spring of 2020. Because of the coronavirus epidemic, Goshen closed all town offices on March 14, 2020.

### **Report for July, 2020-June, 2021**

Our historical commission ceased meeting with the town's closure of all town offices on March 14, 2020. We have not met since as a committee. Pat Perrault declined reappointment to another term in June, 2020. We are back to two vacancies.

Goshen History Museum by Museum Curator Norene Roberts

Because the Goshen History Museum, located in a separate building closed to the public for most of the year, the historical commissioners were able to access the museum to do some upkeep, service two dehumidifiers, respond to questions and inquiries by the public, and sort out and explore the collections. This was done by Norene Roberts, Museum Curator. The Museum is unheated and has torn and damaged insulation in the attic (see Bob Labrie's report and colored photographs from ca. 2017-18). The building continues to need extensive work in the attic and doors where mice get in which Bob's report documents.

While the building was closed this year, it has been rekeyed and the old keys disposed of. The Select Board was given two new keys and Ron Loven is now charged with checking the interior once a week. We also hired D. J. Clary, plumber, who piped the ground floor dehumidifier into the basement and out the floor drain. This has eliminated frequent trips to the museum to empty it. Clary also properly seated a head stone geographic marker and its text so that it won't tip over. We have also had problems with the alarm system which continues to be set off in high wind. The Museum continues to be checked often.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joe Roberts, Chair



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## **Library**

2020 has been an unusual year at the library, due to the Covid closing. As with other town departments, we have been closed since last March.

During the closure we have continued adding new items to the collection, including books, movies, and museum passes ; weeding(to make space for new material); planning programs to take place once we receive permission to reopen; applying for state aid; and providing curbside delivery for those who wish to borrow library materials.

### **Procedure for curbside delivery:**

- 1) Call the library@ 268-8236, ext. 111
- 2) Leave a message with your name, phone number, and the author and title of the item/s you wish to borrow
- 3) The librarian will return your call and arrange a time for you to come to Town Hall to pick up the item/s
- 4) The librarian will come down to the parking lot at the designated time and hand the material to you.

Among the new materials that will be available this next fiscal year, beginning in July, will be a library passes (for free or reduced admission) to several local museums, including Historic Deerfield, The Clark museum, Hancock Shaker Village, The Eric Carle Museum of Picturebook Art, and MASSMOCA(contact the library for additional details regarding borrowing the library's passes).

Thanks to our library trustee Melanie Dana, the library now has a face book page, which includes new acquisitions, etc.: <https://www.facebook.com/Public-Library-of-Goshen-Massachusetts-109398403860024/>

If you would like to be on our mailing list for an occasional newsletter and email notifications of upcoming library programs/events, please send your request to [goshenfreelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:goshenfreelibrary@gmail.com).

As always, we appreciate receiving suggestions of books, movies, etc. to add to the collectons. Please send your ideas to [goshenfreelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:goshenfreelibrary@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing each of you at the library when we reopen!

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Noblick, Library Director

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## **Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Report**

This was an exceptionally busy and challenging year to move forward with Goshen's high speed internet project and looks to be even more busy and challenging in 2021. Verizon and National Grid make ready work on utility poles continued throughout 2020. National Grid completed their initial make ready work

in the first half of 2020. Verizon continued to do initial make ready work throughout 2020 finishing just before year end.

MBI/Axia/KCST/Local Linx middle mile initial make ready work continues through 2020 and is completed just before year end.

Westfield Gas & Electric was chosen as Goshen's ISP (Internet Service Provider) & NO (Network Operator). Project engineer inspections by Westfield Gas & Electric and Utility company ride outs to determine areas that need make ready remediation to verify compliance with engineering and regulatory standards are completed.

National Grid completed their make ready remediation work by year end.

Verizon make ready remediation has not yet begun by year end. Verizon make ready true up billing and refunds are both in process but not yet completed.

MBI Axia/KCST make ready remediation work has not yet begun by year end

Preliminary borrowing in the amount \$350,000 is begun in the second half of 2020 to pay for work beyond the amounts provided by the State so far.

Connect America Fund II process was successfully completed through Westfield Gas & Electric and submitted to the FCC and grant monies of \$261,762 will be awarded to the town over a 10 year period in 1/10<sup>th</sup> equal disbursements.

The Distribution Network Construction bid was released and awarded to TriWire Engineering to build the infrastructure along all existing utility poles in Goshen. Customer TriWire Engineering was also award the bid to do all the customer installation work for Goshen during the Initial Subscription Period.

Network Hut planning, site placement preparation and delivery was completed. Hut electronics procurement is completed and items on order.

Goshen MLP policies documentation work begins in 2020 and will continue into 2021. For current status and updates on the project go to [www.goshen-ma.us/broadband-high-speed-internet/](http://www.goshen-ma.us/broadband-high-speed-internet/).

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Glaser, MLP Manager

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### **Open Space Committee**

The Open Space Committee was appointed to address the goals and objectives of the current Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The OSRP focuses on ensuring that Goshen retains its rural character through the conservation of important natural and cultural resources and improving the quality of its recreational resources for current and future generations. A copy of the OSRP is available online or by contacting the committee. Some time was spent in 2019 searching for funding for a consultant to assist with an update to the 2012 OSRP which expired in 2019. We applied for a DLTA grant from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) which we received for assistance in updating the OSRP.

Goshen hosted a January 2020 outreach workshop organized by Hilltown Land Trust and DCR. This was one of three educational and networking workshops regarding land conservation held in the hilltowns.

Trail maintenance on the North and South Loops at the Tilton Farm Recreation Area is ongoing. The committee thanks the Tilton Farm Supervisors, and especially Roger Culver, for maintaining the North and South Loop trails, as well as keeping the South trail mowed. Many thanks also to the Fire Dept., which had a work party (organized by Monica Neveu and Melanie Dana), that replaced a bridge at the top of the North Loop and replaced broken boards on the South trail. Thanks again to the Supervisors' Bob Goss for help in obtaining donated materials for the work.

Open Space has been a 7 person committee. At ATM in 2020, a warrant article to change the committee size from 7 to 5 was approved. Thanks to Alison Bowen, who resigned this year, for her years on Open Space.

Most of the committee's time was spent on collaborating with PVPC to update Goshen's OSRP. A visioning session was held in August to gather feedback. The questionnaire used and the feedback are included in the appendix of the OSRP. The final draft was sent to the state for approval in December 2020. The Open Space Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 4 pm in the Town Offices. New members and volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Papush, Chair

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### **Planning Board**

During the course of the year various members of the Planning Board represented the Board on the Community Preservation Committee, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC).

The Board received a plan of land requesting approval not required under Goshen subdivision laws. At a public meeting held by teleconference, the Board considered the application and heard comments from the public and the applicant. After much discussion the Board did not vote to approve the application and the applicant was so notified.

The Board received a second plan of land from the same applicant requesting approval not required under Goshen subdivision laws for a different arrangement of lots. At a public meeting held by teleconference, the Board considered this new application and heard comments from the public and the applicant. After discussion the Board voted unanimously that the application did not meet the requirements for endorsement as approval not required under Goshen subdivision laws, and endorsement was denied and the applicant so notified.

During the course of the year the Board reviewed and approved 1 other plan of land.

Respectfully submitted,  
Goshen Planning Board  
Roger Culver, Chairman  
Joseph Frye, Secretary  
Lisa Newman  
Jim Barrett

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### Town of Goshen Police Department

The Officers of the Goshen Police department are part time officers that serve the Town of Goshen with hard work and dedication. This year was a challenge Due to Covid-19 but we managed to adjust to the situation stay healthy during this time. This year we answered **568** calls for Police Services. Currently there are 5 Officers that serve on the department.

Chief Jeffrey Hewes 24 years, Officer William Bissell 32 years, Donna Hewes 24 years, Erik Loik 2 years, Brendan Smith 2 years of service to the Town of Goshen.

Congratulations to Brendan Smith for completing the Full Time Police Academy Brendan is full time for the Town of Hadley. Brendan will continue to work part time for Goshen.

The **mailing address** for the Police department is **P.O. Box 23 Goshen, MA 01032.**

The police station is located at **40A Main Street** in the rear of the town office building. Please use the entrance at the rear of the building where the blue awning is that says **POLICE.**

**A REMINDER** to residents when you receive your notice from the firearms record bureau start the process to **renew a firearms license to carry or FID** please do this as soon as you receive this as this needs to be done **3 months in advance.** The process for licensing is taking longer as there are more back ground checks for applicants and more applications being submitted throughout the state. Call the police department to get guidance on how to proceed with your renewal. **There is no grace period if your license expires.** The fee for Firearms Licenses is **\$100.00 made out to the Town of Goshen.**

**GOT DRUGS Med Return Drug Collection Unit located at the police station** for your unwanted prescription and non-prescription medications vitamins and veterinary medications. Sorry no liquids, syringes, IV equipment, or chemotherapy drugs. Drugs cane accepted but due to **Covid-19** you must call to make an appointment to drop off. At this time we are not allowing anyone in the building. Thank you to all who dropped off unwanted and expired prescriptions and non- prescription medications.

Remember if it looks suspicious report it. Our non-emergency number is **413- 586 -1508** the Station number **413-268- 3116 business only. OFFICERS SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED AT THEIR RESIDENCES OR BY THEIR PERSONAL PHONE THIS IS FOR OFFICER SAFTEY!** Please use the numbers provided above and an officer will be toned to assist you. All calls must go through our dispatch.

Respectfully submitted,



Chief Jeffrey Hewes

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### **Recreation Commission**

The Recreation Commission continues to maintain our Tilton Town Field recreation area in 2020. General maintenance and ballfield preparation was attended to throughout the year by Roger Culver.

With COVID 19 restrictions in place for most of the year, the town fields were not utilized as they have been in the past. No softball, little league, Hilltown Junior Olympics or Council on Aging events and activities. There was a noticeable increase in the use of the town trails by locals looking to be active during COVID 19.

Active committee member Shannon Wade submitted her resignation effective June 30, 2020. This leaves the designated representative from the Recreation Commission at the CPA Committee open.

Eight new large tables that are plastic and easier to move about were purchased and left in Town Hall for use.

We are always looking for new members willing to join in the efforts to promote recreational activities in the Town of Goshen. The Goshen Recreation Commission is in need of new membership and would benefit greatly from support of our townspeople who have connections to the youth and youth related activities as well as other recreational desires.

Goshen Recreation Commission:

Roger Culver- Chair

David Bond

Shannon Wade

Taylor Granger

Joan Griswold

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### **Hampshire Regional Interim-Superintendent Report**

The year 2020 was a challenge for the five Hampshire Regional school districts, as it was for all. On March 13, 2020 everything changed when schools were closed due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the details of the year are summarized by the school principals in their reports, I would like to provide just a few highlights from the central office.

The administrative leadership and management of the group of districts comes from the superintendent and the directors of business, special education, curriculum, technology, and health services. In addition there are five administrative support positions. This team worked extra-long days and weeks making the myriad changes required to move to remote learning and hybrid learning models in the spring of 2020. Then, at the height of planning for a revamped fall program the superintendent of schools resigned his position. Fortunately, the rest of the central office, the five school principals, and their school committees all stepped up and did a remarkable job getting the school year started.

Once the school year was underway the unknowns of the pandemic required constant adjustment to the learning models and safety protocols used by schools. With this backdrop, teachers worked diligently to provide engaging and meaningful learning for their students. Families too, needed to constantly adjust, as did our students. The five school committees made time to hire an interim superintendent, to launch a comprehensive search for a permanent superintendent, to draft a written agreement to guide the collective work of the five district group, and to continue monitor current spending and build sound budgets for the 2021-2022 school year.

Everyone endured much in 2020 and I am proud to have been associated with a school community that demonstrated such resilience, dedication, and team work in the service of its kids. Thank you for your support and commitment to your Hampshire Regional public schools.

Sincerely,

Michael Sullivan, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools

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### **Hampshire Regional High School**

Students and staff at Hampshire Regional showed impressive resilience and compassion during the 2020 calendar year.

January and February of 2020 began in our typical fashion of hitting the deck running into the new year. Our academic programming was in full swing and students were engaged in numerous educational opportunities on and off campus. Notably, the math department led by program leaders Nicole Rainville and Terry Barut was in the process of including new inquiry-based learning lessons into their classes based on meaningful professional development they had earlier in the school year. A new interdisciplinary course, AP Seminar, engaged students in critical thinking and research on a number of current events such as school safety taught by librarian Andrea Belanger. Both eighth grade teams visited UMass in January on their annual college visit. Extracurricular student-led activities such as esports was a new organization that gained popularity in 2019, and our highly anticipated spring musical, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying was in rehearsals. Winter athletics such as basketball, wrestling, skiing, and our co-op programs with Easthampton for swimming, diving and hockey had high participation with Hampshire athletes. Hampshire Regional experienced a shift in

leadership when the Assistant Principal, Mark Biagini resigned in February and Karen Milch, the school's Evaluation Team Leader was hired in his place. Karen's proven track record at Hampshire made her a good fit to fill in the mid-year vacancy and she seamlessly took on the leadership role.

Special education teacher Jason Threlfall was awarded the Harold Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence from Hampshire in February. Jason was an ideal candidate for this accolade due to his tireless work with students he works with and his clear dedication to ensuring they grow and learning with his support.

The winter months also included a number of conversations with member towns' select boards and finance committees regarding important building projects that needed to be done at Hampshire Regional based on the school's capital improvement plan. Given the school renovations were complete almost 20 years prior there were a few key areas that needed immediate attention, including the school's HVAC system, recommended safety upgrades, sidewalk repairs, water tank repairs, locker upgrades and field irrigation. Significant collaboration took place between all towns, the district's central office, and the school's administration to determine how to fund these improvements with a specific focus on the HVAC system. Little did any of us know that this project served to be extremely valuable for health and safety purposes related to COVID-19 in the fall.

March of 2020 brought some significant, unexpected changes to the school year with the infection rate of COVID-19 affecting our state. The School Committee had several emergency meetings to discuss the cancellation of international trips to Ireland, Berlin/London/Paris, and France. After working in partnership with our local Board of Health from Westhampton, the musical was able to have one evening show with a limited audience on Friday, March 13 with the shows on Saturday and Sunday being cancelled. That same day, school was canceled for several weeks to encourage community members to stay home to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our area. Educational programming was challenging due to the inequities across the districts including access to broadband internet, access to technology, and availability of support at home. Because of this, the administration worked to provide packets of work to students and streamline assignments to focus on English language arts, mathematics, wellness, and a daily journal. Weekly communication included family newsletters, faculty meetings, and class meetings.

Once the school closure was extended to include most of the spring, the staff rallied around the Class of 2020 and became the first in the area to deliver lawn signs to seniors to recognize and appreciate their strength during what should have been an exciting and busy time for them. Many staff members contributed to the signs and had car parades to deliver them to students' houses around the district. Senior post-graduation plans were highlighted on the school's Instagram and Facebook pages. Later in the spring, the governor announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the school year. April vacation was changed to school days to end the school year earlier in June. Teaching and learning transitioned from general assignments to course-based assignments for the fourth quarter, and online learning commenced without training or support. Teachers worked hard to develop appropriate lessons that were accessible to all, regardless of the access issues. Wireless hotspots were provided to families, as were laptops. Hampshire Regional offered a grab and go meal program that was popular with the local community led by cafeteria manager Carol Inman. The junior prom was rescheduled and then cancelled, along with many other exciting spring events that all students were looking forward to enjoying including the middle school semi-formal, jazz and arts night, all athletics, the sophomore Washington DC trip, and senior activities including the senior banquet and the senior class trip.

Instead of canceling graduation, the school administration and class advisors Tonya Aitken and Steve Croft hosted an individual ceremony for each of the 119 graduates over the course of a week and had a

professional videographer, Reelife Productions out of Williamsburg, record each ceremony to make one special production. The class valedictorian, Emma Civello of Southampton and class salutatorian and president, Annie Curran of Southampton both gave moving remarks, and additional highlights included speeches by the class Vice President April Warner of Chesterfield, the class Secretary Aine McDonald of Worthington, and class treasurer, Aiden Braastad of Southampton. The school photographer, Gryn and Barrett, provided professional photos to graduates and their families, and Forget Me Not Florists out of Northampton donated roses to each graduate. The ceremony was available to all on YouTube, Facebook, and through the Southampton local access channel on June 5, the originally scheduled graduation date. An additional ceremony was planned for August with all graduates celebrating together, but after consulting with the board of health, the decision was made to cancel that event.

The end of the school year brought about a much-needed break for hardworking students and staff. Special education teacher Glenda Hall, school psychologist Leslie Giordano, and para educator Sue Henson decided to retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and special education teacher Roberta (Bobbie) Smith and para educator Liz Sormanti retired in the fall of 2020. The dedication and support these women offered to our students will be greatly missed. Additionally, the school superintendent, Aaron Osborne, resigned at the end of August and interim superintendent Michael Sullivan was selected by the school committees to lead the district for the year.

The summer of 2020 consisted of a great deal of planning for the upcoming school year in addition to these leadership shifts. Town meetings occurred over the summer and voted to approve the Hampshire Regional budget as well as the HVAC project for the school, while other capital items were withdrawn by the school administration and school committee earlier in the summer due to budgetary implications due to COVID affecting towns. The HVAC project focused on the heat of the building, but additional components of ensuring acceptable air exchange rates and the installation of MERV13 filters were added to the scope of the work to be done. The school committee met on a weekly basis to discuss school reopening and all of the details that accompanied it. The local boards of health were often consulted and our district's nurses worked throughout the summer to comply with the Department of Public Health with procedures in schools for health and wellness. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provided resources and directives for schools to prepare for opening with COVID under three potential models; a full reopen, a hybrid reopen, and a remote reopen. The number of school days for students was decreased from 180 to 170 to allow for staff to have an additional ten days of professional development, which was highly valuable to the HRHS faculty and staff. Staff engaged in lessons on zoom, google classroom, apps such as Padlet and FlipGrid, as well as engaged with one another to share best practices for distance learning. Staff also read one of four anti-racism texts and shared their learning during the professional development time.

Hampshire had some faculty members shift roles for the 20-21 school year including:

- Katie Watkins moved from counselor to Evaluation Team Leader to replace Karen Milch
- Alicja Duprat moved from para educator to Special Education teacher to replace Jeff Carriero
- Erin Mahon-Moore moved from Special Education teacher to English teacher to replace Glenda Hall
- Dan Charko moved from van driver to cafeteria staff to replace Maryrose Cerulla

Hampshire also welcomed a number of new faculty members:

- Emily Krems as Middle School Counselor replacing Katie Watkins



- Mya Holmes as School Psychologist replacing Leslie Giordano
- Cayce Williams as Special Education teacher replacing Bobbie Smith
- Melissa Zazzaro-Williams as Spanish teacher replacing Ana Rueda-Hernandez
- Kristin Brouillette as English teacher replacing James Belcastro
- Jules Marciano as a para educator replacing Melinda Conway
- Adam Burt as a para educator replacing Madison McCarthy
- Keri Doldoorian as a para educator replacing Sue Henson
- Andi Moriarty as a para educator replacing Liz Sormanti
- Sarah Manley as a para educator as a new position
- David Cook as a building substitute
- Kevin Marsh as a cafeteria helper replacing Sevun Moran

Additionally, some temporary staff were hired to replace teachers taking a one year leave of absence including:

- Josh Lane as a middle school history teacher replacing Tracey Pinkham
- Kasey Soderberg as a middle school English teacher replacing Allison Coates
- Nora Penn as a high school math teacher replacing Matt Geertsma

With the new staff in place, the additional time at the beginning of the school year was even more important to orient the full faculty to the new way of teaching and learning for the first quarter.

After significant discussion, the school committee decided to open in a hybrid model for incoming 7th grade students and open remotely for students in grades 8 through 12. The HVAC project was a major component, and the school committee wanted the contractors to have access to the building to complete their work with limited interruptions to student learning. At the same time, the 7th grade students were prioritized for in person learning due to their status of being new to the school. Students with significant disabilities would be invited into the building to participate in learning from the building in small learning pods. Fall athletics was allowed to proceed with modifications to each sport to comply with health protocols. The school committee formed a safety committee that included teachers, administration, school committee members, and nursing staff to consult with the Board of Health to make recommendations based on the data for our community and the progress of the HVAC project.

Due to COVID, there were a number of operational changes to teaching and learning at Hampshire. The schedule shifted from a seven period rotating waterfall schedule to an eight period schedule with four periods each day and no rotation. This allowed for more classes to be offered to reduce class sizes. Also, it enabled all students to add a new class to their schedule called COVID support. This class offered students the opportunity to engage in lessons that provided academic, social and emotional support, as well as be a consistent place for students to receive information and check in with a familiar teacher. PE electives were streamlined into a general course, limiting the physical interaction between students. Incoming school choice programs were closed due to needing to plan for the current population of students and limiting class sizes to be the appropriate distance from one another in classes.

The school year officially began for students on September 16 and welcomed 699 students enrolled at Hampshire Regional.

Grade	Student Enrollment
7	132
8	121
9	104
10	101
11	137
12	98
Post Grad	6
Total	699

Seventh graders had the unique opportunity to be in the building without any upperclassmen, and they engaged in in-person learning two half days a week while students in grades 8-12 learned online through the first quarter. A great deal of learning took place outside for students in person, and Hampshire is fortunate to have a wonderful campus for this to occur. By the end of the first quarter, the staff recognized a number of shifts that should occur for the second quarter to optimize teaching and learning including more synchronous time in the remote model and additional support for students who were struggling to engage. A number of student activities were put on hold to focus on academics for the fall including academic society induction and many extracurricular clubs. However, some groups were able to meet remotely such as the game club, yearbook committee, and student council elections were held in December. The class of 2021 held some socially distant activities with the support of the Board of Health. All students who participated were compliant with safety guidelines and engaged in the movie night, parking lot paint party, sunrise watch party, and annual Halloween parade.

As soon as the HVAC project was complete in late November, the learning model shifted for a half day hybrid for all students in grades 8-12, with a fully remote option still available for any student at Hampshire. After reviewing the data in our own school and locally, our local health experts and school superintendent recommended this model due to evidence that COVID is not transmitted in schools due to the mitigation strategies in place. With COVID cases on the rise locally, the school committee and safety committee met regularly to continue discussing the best option for Hampshire students to continue learning into the new year.

The year 2020 was filled with a number of unexpected twists and turns and ups and downs due to the global pandemic. Even still, the admirable qualities of our district shone through even in these unsettling times. The community continued to care for one another and show amazing grace and compassion throughout the year. As I reflect on the mountains moved this year, I am incredibly grateful to lead this amazing school community into 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Smidy, Principal

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### **New Hingham Elementary School**

It is my privilege to submit this annual report of New Hingham Regional Elementary School. This report, in particular, looks and feels much different than any other school year. It is difficult to encapsulate in words the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on all human beings and, of course, public schools.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, I visited each classroom to inform staff and students that school would be closed for a short period of time and they would need to bring home their jackets, mittens, hats, backpacks, and other school materials. At that moment in time, we anticipated a two-week closure, but life as we knew it completely changed due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and we didn't see our students for the next six months. Schools shut down. Businesses shut down. Towns/cities shut down. Countries shut down. Shortly thereafter, teachers, administrators, and school committees were faced with an extraordinary task of completely re-imagining teaching and learning through a virtual model. During Spring 2020, in an effort to continue learning at home, we implemented a building-wide remote learning schedule and provided work packets that families could pick up each week.

Technology and the internet, when utilized responsibly, are invaluable tools, especially in the world of education. Unfortunately, many of our students and families were impacted by the digital divide and could not access instruction or online resources due to the lack of high-speed internet in the hilltowns. Fortunately, the local commitment to the broadband project eliminates the equity issue and affords us the opportunity, likely during post-pandemic teaching, to energize learning experiences in new ways by enhancing and extending learning beyond the classroom and bridging gaps in communication. Nonetheless, the New Hingham staff members did the best that they possibly could with limited training and resources. They placed a necessary focus on our students' health and well-being by providing as much support as possible while we, too, grappled with the changes to our daily lives.

As Fall 2020 approached, despite the many unknowns and various narratives about the virus and its impact on schools, New Hingham remained committed to the prospect of in-person learning once appropriate health and safety measures were in place. We knew that any other model would have devastating implications on the emotional, social, and academic well-being of children. Therefore, we sharpened our pencils and immediately began our collaborative work to ensure the best possible environment for children and staff. In an extremely short period of time, we either met or exceeded all comprehensive expectations set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Teachers' Association. Without delay, we prioritized our students' needs and successfully reopened with a full in-person learning model in mid-October. In addition, we maintained a full remote learning option for families who were not prepared to send their children back to school. This program option was implemented by one of New Hingham's staff members.

While there has been no evidence of transmission in our school, we have, unfortunately, been impacted by COVID-19. At various points of the pandemic, several staff members contracted the virus and one

colleague nearly lost her life. In addition, several students and their families tested positive, prompting some classrooms to shut down for a short period of time. Despite these setbacks, our school remained open for learning. All of New Hingham's staff members continued to arrive each day with a strong commitment to the essential work of building relationships and educating our youth, even though more than half of the staff members were at an increased risk of severe illness. Throughout the winter, members of the New Hingham School Committee and the school administration advocated for support in aligning the vaccination prioritization with those who were in school and exposed to students each day. Several staff members eventually became eligible during the second phase in late February.

The pandemic has certainly had a negative impact on students' education throughout the country; however, we are fortunate that we were able to provide in-person instruction. Based on our local assessment data, students will certainly need varying levels of intervention in both reading and mathematics, but we are not faced with the significant learning gaps that other schools nationwide are experiencing. This summer, students will have the opportunity to participate in summer school learning programs created and led by New Hingham staff. We plan to use local assessment data, teacher recommendations, and parent input to determine student eligibility. As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, we will focus on data-driven instruction and high leverage teaching practices, which will allow us to meet all students' needs and provide the most effective support.

This year, I encouraged the New Hingham staff and community to think about our school's vision - where we see ourselves as an educational institution in the next 5-10 years - and our mission - the things that we are going to achieve. The New Hingham staff members have started these conversations and various stakeholders will also have the opportunity to share their input towards the end of the 2020-2021 school year. In a learning community, everyone is responsible for the learning of others. Schools are tasked with providing a high quality education, but we, as educators and community members, cannot do it in isolation. An effective school community has a clear vision created by administrators, teachers, parents, students, and community members that addresses the aims of education, as well as the image of the learner, curriculum, and teacher. By creating a shared vision and mission statement, it is my hope that it will provide a shared sense of purpose, particularly after a challenging period of time in all of our lives. Our youth have only one chance for a quality education; therefore, it is imperative that we work together to ensure that we make their education the best it can be.

All of the aforementioned collaborative work would not be possible without the dedication and commitment from all staff members, both veteran and new. This year, New Hingham welcomed the following staff members who have all made a positive impact in our school:

- Sevun Wallace, Paraprofessional
- Megan Donovan, Technology Integration Specialist
- Heather Goodenough, PreKindergarten Teacher
- Melissa Griffith, Occupational Therapist
- Casey Ostrowski, Special Education Teacher
- Leonardo Quiles, Art Teacher
- Belinda Sinopoli, Reading Specialist

It is bittersweet to announce that, at the end of this school year, Ronald Loven will retire from New Hingham. "Ronnie" has served as one of New Hingham's custodians for nearly two decades. Thank you, Ronnie, for all that you have done to maintain our beautiful elementary school. You will be missed and we wish you a very happy retirement!

On June 09, 2020, we celebrated the following sixth-grade graduates in a COVID-style outdoor ceremony on an evening that graced us with a spectacular sunset: Sicily Chase, Abigail Fisette, Erin Judd, Carmen Laflam, Mia Marcinek, Priya McSweeney, Addison Morrey, Reagan Mott, Andrea Paszko, Elisabeth Sturtevant, Chelsea Vanasse, and Jordyn Wolf. We wish this talented group of students success in middle/high school. Thank you for all that you contributed to New Hingham!

Our enrollment has fluctuated over the past year due to the pandemic and families choosing to homeschool, but we anticipate that our enrollment will increase substantially this Fall, exceeding our pre-COVID enrollment. As of March 2021, the enrollment numbers are as follows:

- PreK: 11 students
- Kindergarten: 11 students
- 1st Grade: 17 students
- 2nd Grade: 15 students
- 3rd Grade: 16 students
- 4th Grade: 16 students
- 5th Grade: 13 students
- 6th Grade: 16 students

As always, we appreciate our local neighbors and elected officials who support and strengthen our school community. It has been a privilege serving as your community's principal for the past three years and I look forward to our future work together. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jmcmillan@hr-k12.org](mailto:jmcmillan@hr-k12.org) or (413) 296-0000. For more information about New Hingham and current events, please feel free to visit our school website at [www.newhingham.org](http://www.newhingham.org). Please continue to stay healthy and safe.

Yours in education,

Jesse McMillan, Principal

### Select Board

The Board was actively engaged in matters and community projects important to the residents of the Town of Goshen throughout the Pandemic. We worked together to resolve issues and to promote the town with local, regional, and state organizations. While the COVID 19 guidance prevented in-person public participation, we followed revised open meeting law guidance in order to ensure that the business of the Town could be addressed in a timely manner and resident could participate remotely.

Most significantly this year, we addressed the numerous public health concerns brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. We took quick action in declaring a State of Emergency for the Town during a specially convened meeting of many on Saturday, March 14, 2021. Michael Kurland, Chair of the Board of Health, was identified as the Incident Command for this Public Health Emergency. We worked throughout the year with our Town's staff, as well as our community partners to address the safety of our residents, boards, committees, employees, and elected officials.

Keeping up with the ever evolving COVID guidance and regulations from the Department of Public Health , Department of Revenue, applying for CARES Act funding, requisitioning all the personal protective supplies and air purifiers, reporting to FEMA, MEMA, and the State Administration and Finance while engaged in the daily demands of addressing town operations, was no easy task. The collaboration between Michael Kurland, Dawn Scaparotti, and Larry Holmberg was essential throughout this year.

We have all had to come together in different ways to keep things moving forward throughout the Pandemic. We want to acknowledge the support and teamwork of many people who came together during this unusual time. Tremendous appreciation is extended to our many essential workers who continued to work in person throughout the pandemic and to the many committees and boards who took personal risks in completing their work and in creatively developing a way to carry on, during this unprecedented time. Early on, when little was known about the virus, our custodial staff, Ron and Joan Loven, ensured the rooms and buildings were disinfected and ready for use for those essential employees who needed to be in the Office.

Town Clerk Kristen Estelle had to oversee multiple state, local, and presidential elections with revised early voting & voter guidelines and protocols and still find ways to keep all the election workers and public protected. The relentless support of our Council on Aging in reaching out to seniors, providing meals, and check-ins is remarkable. We are thankful for the Police, Fire departments as well as our partners at Highland Ambulance who implemented measures and protocols to account for everyone's safety.

Michael's participation on the Foothills Health District and his recommendation to engage a Public Health Nurse for contact tracing was an essential part of protecting our Town. The fact that it was our very own Goshen resident, Connie Schwaiger, was an added bonus. It has been quite a year for everyone.

The July 2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) was held outdoors and we want to thank those involved as significant work went into making it happen. The Select Board prepared for the myriad non-financial warrant articles and the Finance Committee developed information and recommendations based on best practices that strengthened the Town's financial position.

Broadband, or the town-owned high speed fiber optic network, was a major focus, led by the MLP manager. The work to ready the poles to receive the fiber optic cables has continued throughout this year. There were many policy decisions to make which we continue to discuss jointly with the Finance Committee as we evolve into the next phase – the build out. The anticipated start date for building the network is February 2021 with sign-ups for internet and/or telephone service closely following. By the end of the 2021 many homes should be connected to the new network and all should be connected by early 2022. At every turn, we continue to look for broadband infrastructure funding opportunities. Please see the Municipal Lighting Plant report for the milestones achieved.

The auction of town owned property on South Chesterfield Road was completed and we will be able to return close to \$40,000 in funds to the Town that were earmarked for demolition.

The Town continues to make progress implementing best practice standards for replacement of information technology hardware and software so as to maintain standards to allow for regular and scheduled maintenance to improve the security and operability of our systems and to provide communication to residents through the website.

Significant attention was focused on safe guarding the Town's assets through improved insurance coverage, accounting practices and financial reporting. In preparation for borrowing for the Broadband network project, we coordinated and supported the external audit firm in a timely and comprehensive review. This audit will allow the Town to borrow at a better rate.

We continue to look for opportunities in shared regional services, increased rural school funding, bridge and infrastructure support, and state grants.

But every matter seems small when reflecting on the daily challenges of pandemic conditions.

Stay healthy and we look forward to seeing you at the Annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

## Tax Collector

Tax Collector Report for Fiscal 2020								
Real Estate Taxes								
Fiscal Year	Outstanding Balance as of 07/01/19	Taxes Due - Committed	Collected	Abatements	Exemptions	Refunds	Subsequent Taxes / Tax Title	Outstanding Balance as of 6/30/2020
2020	\$ -	\$ 2,393,408.71	\$ 2,308,112.57	\$ 3,180.53	\$ 8,937.50	\$ -	\$ 2,651.32	\$ 70,526.79
2019	\$ 57,833.82	\$ -	\$ 25,846.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,050.21	\$ 19,936.64
2018	\$ 13,320.12	\$ -	\$ 10,195.24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,124.88
Personal Property								
Fiscal Year	Outstanding Balance as of 07/01/19	Taxes Due - Committed	Collected	Abatements	Exemptions	Refunds	Subsequent Taxes / Tax Title	Outstanding Balance as of 6/30/2020
2020	\$ -	\$ 73,157.16	\$ 73,048.91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 108.25
2019	\$ 2,120.92	\$ -	\$ 2,130.93	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (10.01)
2018	\$ 934.85	\$ -	\$ 934.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2017	\$ 399.95	\$ -	\$ 402.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (3.00)
CPA Account								
Fiscal Year	Outstanding Balance as of 07/01/19	Taxes Due - Committed	Collected	Abatements	Exemptions	Refunds	Subsequent Taxes / Tax Title	Outstanding Balance 6/30/2020
2020	\$ -	\$ 72,002.14	\$ 69,267.31	\$ 806.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79.54	\$ 1,848.60
2019	\$ 1,264.62	\$ -	\$ 1,129.39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135.23
Motor Vehicle Excise								
Fiscal Year	Outstanding Balance as of 07/01/19	Taxes Due - Committed	Collected	Abatements	Adjustments	Refunds	Refunds Due	Outstanding Balance 6/30/2020
2020	\$ -	\$ 146,164.88	\$ 125,298.91	\$ 2,217.34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 701.94	\$ 19,350.57
2019	\$ 23,859.47	\$ 15,605.52	\$ 33,635.36	\$ 2,177.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,362.26	\$ 5,014.44
2018	\$ 566.80	\$ -	\$ 1,029.09	\$ 148.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 116.25	\$ (494.79)
2017	\$ 264.93	\$ -	\$ 223.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41.49
2016	\$ 542.61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 542.61
2015	\$ 723.75	\$ -	\$ 53.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 670.00
2014	\$ 105.42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105.42
2013	\$ 491.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 491.26
2011	\$ 80.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.64
Glossary of Terms								
Committed- Amount of tax due								
Collected- Amount of tax collected								
Abatements- A reduction in the tax assessed on your property for the fiscal year.								
Exemptions- A relief from taxation authorized by statute and granted by the Assessors to certain taxpayers, such as Veteran's, the elderly and the blind.								
Subsequent Taxes/ Tax Title- Tax title is a lien in which the town takes legal ownership of property because of unpaid taxes.								
Respectfully submitted,								
Jennifer Day								
Town Collector, CMMC								



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### **Tilton Town Farm Report**

The Tilton Town Farm Supervisors would like to report on improvements made throughout the year to the farmhouse and land.

Tilton Trails:

- Our collaboration with The Open Space Committee continues to benefit all people who use the hiking trails on the Tilton Land. The Board was very grateful to David Lashway who donated the lumber needed to repair the bridge on one of the trails.

Tilton Land:

- We continue to enhance the open fields near and around the farmhouse and barn on the property. Discussions of adding a solar “farm” have not proved financially viable at this point.

Farmhouse @ 27 Wing Hill Road:

- We have continued to make improvements to the exterior of the house throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Goss, Roger Culver, Rich Polwrek

Tilton Town Farm Supervisors

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### **Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk’s Office is one of the oldest elected offices in the Town serving the residents of Goshen since 1781. The Town Clerk administers the Oath of Office to over 75 elected and appointed members of local committees and boards and provides a copy of the Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Law as required by law. The Clerk is also responsible for maintaining the Conflict of Interest exam certifications from all town employees and members of all boards and committees.

#### **2020 Statistics**

The Town Clerk is Registrar of Vital Statistics; registering all births, deaths and marriages that occur within Goshen and those events occurring elsewhere, to town residents. The Town Clerk is responsible for the examining and certification of all vital records by signing and affixing the town seal.

**Births:** Goshen happily welcomed fourteen newborns into the community in 2020: six males and eight females.

**Marriages:** Four couples were joined in marriage, with the issuance and recording of their marriage in Goshen in 2020.

**Deaths:** Our deepest condolences to all families who lost a loved one this year. In 2020, Goshen recorded six deaths.

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**Dogs:**

Single Licenses Issued: 238

Kennel Licenses Issued: 2

**Elections and Meetings**

The Town Clerk is the Chief Election Official overseeing all aspects of elections whether they are town, state or federal and is responsible for the certification of all election results that are sent to the Secretary of State. She is Clerk, Ex-Officio of the Board of Registrars. The Town Clerk nominates appointment of approximately 20 Election Officials each year. The Clerk conducts the Annual Town Census (Street Listing); entering all town residents into the state database.

**2020 Street Listing:** 998 Residents

**Registered Voters:** 789

**Town Meetings held in 2020:** (See pages that follow for meeting minutes)

- ❖ June 22, 2020 (Annual Town Caucus)
- ❖ July 25, 2020 (Annual Town Meeting)

**Elections held in 2020:**

- ❖ March 3, 2020 (Presidential Primary; 351 ballots cast)
- ❖ August 1, 2020 (Annual Town Election; 87 ballots cast)
- ❖ September 1, 2020 (State Primary; 412 ballots cast)  
(Special Town Election; 418 ballots cast)
- ❖ November 3, 2020 (General Election; 673 ballots cast)

Like everything from March 2020 onward, three of our four elections were unprecedented. We held the postponed annual town election on August 1<sup>st</sup>; all went well. That day, my assistant, Gina Papineau and I spent twelve hours preparing hundreds of vote by mail ballots for the dual State Primary and Special Town Election on September 1<sup>st</sup>. From that day to November 3<sup>rd</sup> (the General Election), it was one long sprint without a break as we prepared and mailed hundreds of more ballots for the November Election and processed them as they were returned. There has always been vote by mail in the form of absentee voting, but this was like never before. Seven days a week the two of us took in ballots that came in by mail and drop box. I have never felt more personally responsible for keeping your votes safe and sound. As it was an anxious time for all, I did my best to communicate clearly throughout the entire process.

I am pleased to say that all of the elections went off without a hitch thanks to the experienced team of Evelyn Kellogg-Culver, Election Warden, and Kit Rock, Election Clerk. They handled all the Covid-19 precautions expertly, and processed the vote by mail ballots efficiently. Many thanks to all the election workers, many of whom volunteered for the first time as they knew our usual election staff is high risk. Thank you, Constables, for keeping the peace. Thank you, Ronnie Loven, for setting up and taking down all the election equipment. It takes a team to run an election, and I am honored to work with you all.

Last but certainly not least, thank you, Gina, for your tremendous help, reassurance and guidance during this trying year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen M. Estelle  
Town Clerk of Goshen

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**Annual Town Meeting Warrants and Minutes**

**TOWN OF GOSHEN**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**FIELD BEHIND TOWN OFFICES**

**Saturday, July 25, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 9:47 a.m., a quorum being present and 93 voters signed in. The meeting was held under a tent in the field behind town offices, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Chairs were spaced six feet apart and masks were required.

Moderator Keith Wright informed the group that the meeting was being recorded to aid the Town Clerk in taking minutes. He recognized the Goshen residents who passed away since the last annual town meeting:

Sylvia Richardson

Maralee Harry

Elinor Gagnon

The moderator asked for a moment of silence in memory of those we lost.

Mr. Wright noted that the warrant was duly posted and returned and then dispensed with the formal reading of the warrant and moved to Article 1.

ARTICLE 1: Motion made and seconded to choose all necessary officers to serve for the ensuing year.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to permit the Select Board to set the compensation of Town employees and appointed officials as established in the Town's personnel policies.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 3: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the chief elected officials to apply for Massachusetts Small Cities Programs, or other Federal, or any State monies, and to expend any monies as received as set forth in the appropriate application.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

The motion was made and seconded to move Article 25 up so it could be discussed and voted on next.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 25: This is a citizen's petition submitted and certified by three Registrars of voters of the Town of Goshen.

To see if the Town will vote to require the Select Board to:

- Immediately stop any further activity related to the East Street Pathway, a.k.a. East Street Pedestrian / Bicycle Accommodations (Phase 1),
- Quantify and post a listing of all the necessary land takings, easements, rights of entry, etc. as indicated in the DOT Tier 3 Project application (Exhibit C), dated September 26<sup>th</sup> 2019, to the town website,
- Hold an open meeting with taxpayers before October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, to review the necessity and legality of the entire project.

Further, regarding any and all future Complete Streets projects, the Select Board shall:

- Solicit feedback in advance from the general public of Goshen on potential projects, to ensure that the perspectives of the community are considered, as adopted in the Complete Streets Policy and signed by the Goshen Select Board on August 20<sup>th</sup> 2018,
- Clearly identify budget request and specific land takings associated with potential projects, in budget recommendations presented to the voters of the Town of Goshen at future town meetings,
- Quantify expenditures related to the project whether incurred by the residents of the Town of Goshen or by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through other means – to be updated monthly and posted to the town website on its own page in the Capital Projects section.

**Note: This article addresses both the East Street Pathway and Complete Streets projects.**

**With regards to the East Street Pathway, this article seeks to:**

- **Stop the current Complete Streets project, aka, the East Street Pathway,**
- **Quantify the specific land taking required for this project,**
- **Discuss the purpose and need of this project, to determine the next steps.**  
Further, with regards to any and all future Complete Streets projects, this article seeks to:
  - **Discuss the purpose and need of any new project ... before starting it,**

- **Clearly define all costs and land takings of any new project ... before starting it,**
- **Post a monthly accounting of activities of any new project ... during implementation.**

Discussion: Steve Calderone of West Shore Drive went into detail about the petition, as well as the handout that was put on everyone's chair. Jeff Blake, town attorney, brought up the point that a Citizen's Petition allows the debate to happen, but it does not force the select board to take action as a result. Todd Dewkett, highway superintendent, discussed that the Complete Streets committee meetings were public, properly posted, and anyone could have attended them. The committee had hoped to use the grant money toward improving the cross walk on Route 9 between town offices and the senior housing complex, but the money cannot be used for state highway improvements. Todd stated further that there are no plans for a sidewalk on East Street. The maximum grant total was \$400,000, and the town received approximately \$375,000. The plan is to repave East Street and make a bike lane, essentially a painted line along the side of the road, which would also create a safer place to walk.

Several motions were made throughout the meeting to move the question, end discussion, table the discussion, bring it back to the table, etc.

Eventually the motion was made and seconded to postpone the question indefinitely.

**The motion to postpone the question indefinitely passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, an additional sum of money to defray the costs and expenses of the Town of Goshen for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, all as set forth on the handout entitled, "**Finance Committee Report and Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting on July 25, 2020 for Goshen Massachusetts**", in the section entitled, "**FY 2021 Contingent Budget**"; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½, so called, override question permanently increasing the levy by the total amount shown in the handout.

**Note: majority vote is required.**

**Note: A levy limit override increases the amount of property tax revenue a community may raise in the year specified in the override question and in future years. It increases the community's levy limit and becomes part of the base for calculating future years' levy limits. The result is a permanent increase in taxing authority. G.L. c. 59 § 21C(g). The purpose of the override is to provide funding for municipal expenses likely to recur or continue into the future, such as annual operating and fixed costs, although it may be used for any municipal spending purpose.**

General Government:

Line 15: The select board's audit expense increase to \$13,000 compared to the FY20 cost of \$7,000 was questioned. It was explained that this is because the town is moving from biennial audits to yearly audits, as the state recommends it, and the town is about to do some large borrowing for Broadband.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$390,852 for General Government.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Public Safety:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$231,836 for Public Safety.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Public Works:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$441,525 for Public Works.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Public Health & Sanitation:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$77,004 for Public Health & Sanitation.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Community Services:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$79,055 for Community Services.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Pensions and Insurance:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$185,027 for Pensions and Insurance.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Capital Stabilization Fund:

Dawn Scaparotti, chair of Finance Committee, explained that the \$70K override is to reach the 3% recommended to put toward Capital Stabilization.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$92,000 for Capital Stabilization Fund.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Education:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,599,718 for Education.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Debt Service/ Debt Exclusion:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$68,833 for Debt Service/ Debt Exclusion.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$3,165,850 for sums of money, contingent on the passage of two override ballot questions at a special town election on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 5: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000.00 to the highway/public safety project to be expended for the purpose of a feasibility study and pre-design to be developed and then brought forth to the town residents.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 6: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$16,813.89 to the Capital Stabilization Account.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: To fund the Capital Stabilization Account.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from Free Cash the sum of \$8,662.17 for the

payment of the principal and interest on the 2008 International single axle secondary plow/ dump truck.

International Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2008	\$8,234.00	\$428.17	\$8,662.17

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 4th of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$7,095.16 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Ford Super Duty F350 ¾ ton pickup truck.

Ford Super Duty F350 pickup truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$6,278.90	\$816.26	\$7,095.16

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 1st of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.**

**Passed by requisite 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority.**

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$26,510.00 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Mack single axle primary plow/ dump truck.

Mack Primary Plow/Dump Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$22,000.00	\$4,510.00	\$26,510.00

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 1st of 10 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.**

**Passed by requisite 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority.**



ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$9,477.00 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2017 Police Ford Interceptor.

Police Ford Interceptor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2017	\$9,000.00	\$477.00	\$9,477.00

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 3rd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.  
Passed by requisite 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority.**

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$12,080.94 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD.

Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$10,691.10	\$1,389.84	\$12,080.94

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 1st of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.**

**Passed by requisite 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority.**

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$198.94 from Free Cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the purpose of payment of FY2019 bills from the following accounts: Board of Health, \$100.00, for United Site Services; the Library, \$98.94, for books.

**Note: A 4/5ths vote is required for a bill of a prior year at an ATM.**

**Passed by requisite 4/5ths majority.**

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to rescind the debt authorizations for the dates and unissued amounts below.

<b>Original Article &amp; Authority Date</b>	<b>Project or Purpose</b>	<b>Unissued Amount</b>
STM 10/11/2016, Article 7	2008 International 7500 series dump/plow truck	\$8,830.00
ATM 5/20/2019, Article 15	2019 Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD	\$1,625.00
ATM 5/20/2019, Article 16	2019 Ford Super Duty F350 pickup truck	\$1,519.00

**Note: A majority vote is required.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to rescind the debt authorization for the unissued amount of \$538,321.41 from Article 29 of the May 20, 2019 Annual Town Meeting for a roof replacement for the New Hingham School.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: Total project costs for both Chesterfield and Goshen amounted to \$261,678.59 as approved by the New Hingham school committee. The total project borrowing authorization was for \$800,000.00. Goshen's share of the project cost is \$129,213.76.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 15: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for community preservation projects, and other expenses in fiscal year 2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 5,000

**Passed by requisite majority.**

**Reserves:**

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$16,000

**Passed by requisite majority.**

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$16,000

**Passed by requisite majority.**

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$16,000

**Passed by requisite majority.**

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$74,000

**Passed by requisite majority.**

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: Total appropriation includes 90% of the expected 100% state match.**

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded to see if the town will vote to close to the general fund, the remaining balance as of June 30, 2020 in the FRTA revolving account which was authorized at May 20, 2019 Annual Town Meeting , article 24.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 17: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §54E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2021 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows.

Program or Purpose	FY 2021 Spending Limit
Highland Ambulance Fuel Reimbursement Account	\$12,000
Animal Control Revolving Fund	\$7,500
Board of Appeals Revolving Fund	\$6,000
Electrical Inspector Revolving Fund	\$5,000

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 18: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to change the composition of the Open Space Committee from 7 members to 5 members effective immediately.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: This article acknowledges that we need to address the topic of beginning to reduce the membership numbers on certain boards and committees that cannot find enough interested and qualified individuals with enough time who are willing to serve.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 19: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to supplement each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money to pay costs of capital projects to provide that, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: Adoption of this section of MGL would allow the Town to apply bond monies in excess of the authorization (bond premium) to a capital project, allowing the Town to reduce the amount that it actually borrows for that project, in this case for broadband. This change was allowed under the Municipal Modernization Act enacted in November 2016 and may be applied to any long term bond borrowing.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 20: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64G, section 3A, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of 6.00% , said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: Adoption of this section of MGL would allow the Town to collect a local excise tax for all of the types short term rentals indicated above in the percentage specified.**

Discussion: It was asked, "How does this work?" When an AirBnB does their filing, the town will receive 6%. The assessors have identified several AirBnBs in town. Kim Dresser asked what the definition of short term rental was; the answer is less than 30 days. The town estimates revenue of \$3K to \$5K a quarter.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 21: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108P concerning additional compensation for collectors or treasurers. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

**Section 108P.** In any city, town or district that accepts this section, a collector or a treasurer who has completed the necessary courses of study and training and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association as a

certified Massachusetts municipal collector or a certified Massachusetts municipal treasurer or a certified Massachusetts district treasurer, shall receive as compensation from such city, town or district, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such city, town or district for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year. A collector or treasurer who has been awarded both certificates referred to above shall receive such additional compensation for only one such certificate. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, a collector or treasurer shall submit to the mayor or the board of selectmen of such city or town, or the governing board of a district proof of the award of either or both such certificates. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12 month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of collector or treasurer for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall be discontinued when certification is discontinued or withdrawn.

**Note: Majority vote is required**

**Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for Collectors & Treasurers.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 22: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 19K concerning additional compensation for town clerks. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

**Section 19K:** In any town, that accepts this section, a town clerk who has completed the necessary courses of study and training, and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal clerk, shall receive as compensation from such town, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such town for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year. In order

to qualify for such additional compensation, a town clerk shall submit to the board of selectmen of such town proof of the award of such certificate. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12 month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of town clerk for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall discontinue when certification is discontinued or withdrawn.

**Note: Majority vote is required**

**Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for town clerks.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 23: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21A concerning additional compensation for Assessors & Assistant Assessors. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

**Section 21A:** In any city or town which accepts this section, an assessor or assistant assessor who has completed the necessary courses of study and training and has been awarded a certificate by the International Association of Assessing Officers as a certified assessment evaluator or who has been awarded a certificate by the Association of Massachusetts Assessors as a certified Massachusetts assessor shall receive as compensation from such city or town, in addition to the regular compensation paid by such city or town for services in such office, an amount equal to ten per cent of such regular compensation; provided, however, that in no event shall such additional compensation exceed one thousand dollars annually, if such assessor or assistant assessor is employed on a full-time basis, or five hundred dollars, if such assessor or assistant assessor is employed on a part-time basis. An assessor who has been awarded both certificates referred to above shall receive such additional compensation for only one of such certificates. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, an assessor or assistant assessor shall submit proof that he has been awarded either or both of the aforesaid certificates to the mayor or the board of selectmen of such city or town. The additional compensation herein provided shall be prorated for any twelve month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of assessor or assistant assessor for twelve consecutive months.

**Note: Majority vote is required**

**Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for Assessors & Assistant Assessors.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 24: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to amend its General By-laws pursuant to M.G.L. c.41, §106B, to establish a Capital Planning Committee that will replace any previous Capital Planning Committee.

The Capital Planning Committee shall be made up of five members, each appointed for three- (3) year staggered terms. All members shall be appointed by the Select Board, and initially, one member shall be appointed for (1) one year, two members for (2) two years and two members shall be appointed for (3) three years. Two members are to be appointed from amongst the Finance Committee by the Select Board. The remaining three committee members are appointed by the Select Board based upon the best available candidates with an appropriate background and knowledge to fulfill the needs and duties of the Committee. All appointments shall be based upon the beginning and ending of the fiscal year for the terms described above. Any vacancy for an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner so as to complete the term of the original appointment.

**Purpose and role of the Capital Planning Committee:**

The fundamental purpose of the Capital Planning Committee shall be to enhance the Town's capacity to identify, prioritize, and understand the financial implications of capital projects with a useful life of at least five (5) years, and an aggregate cost of at least \$5,000. And, to develop a capital plan relative to the afore mentioned purpose. Further, the Capital Planning Committee will work with the Finance Committee to develop policies consistent with best practices.

► The Capital Planning Committee should solicit requests from each municipal department that would have a capital request meeting the above criteria. The departmental requests should include a brief statement of justification of the request including why it is needed;

what is the useful life of the item, what is the estimated cost of the item and why it is necessary in the year for which it is being requested.

- ▶ The Capital Planning Committee shall gather information, review and prioritize recommendations regarding capital project needs and expenditures that will be funded by annual appropriations in accordance with the financial constraints of the Town.
- ▶ Develop and present a capital plan budget and multi-year capital program to the Finance Committee and Select Board with the recommendations of the Capital Planning Committee for what should and should not be included in any given year.
- ▶ In conjunction with the Finance Committee analyze the municipality's ability to afford major expenditures by examining recent and anticipated trends in revenues, expenditures and debt burden and propose a method of payment that will be supported by the ability of the Town to pay for it with current revenue; available reserves; debt or debt excluded and debt overrides from the limits of Proposition 2 ½.
- ▶ The funding strategy for the Capital Stabilization account should be consistent with best practices such as targeting 3% - 5% of the levy limit or 3% - 5% of the annual budget, prior to debt exclusions.
- ▶ The Capital Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, should recommend a method for financing each project.

**Note: Majority vote is required**

**Note: This change would establish the Capital Planning Committee to conform to the current M.G.L. requirements.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Sandy Papush from Open Space Committee encouraged residents to fill out the Open Space questionnaire and to attend their Zoom meeting in August.

Laura Barrus from the Board of Health told residents that fees at the transfer station will have to be raised soon as expenses continue to rise. Goshen currently has the cheapest transfer station fees in the Hilltowns.

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle

Town Clerk



**Town Treasurer**

**For the Fiscal Year 2020: July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020**

<b>Receipts</b>	
<b>July 2019</b>	<b>\$331,444.87</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>954,474.03</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>145,299.32</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>118,787.62</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>702,562.07</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>628,068.47</b>
<b>January 2020</b>	<b>646,037.06</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>336,156.98</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>152,635.56</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>274,353.54</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>478,961.90</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>593,451.25</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,362,232.67</b>

<b>Debt Outstanding</b>				
	<b>Outstanding Debt as of July 1, 2019</b>	<b>New Debt Issued during FY 2020</b>	<b>Retired during FY2020</b>	<b>Outstanding Debt as of June 30, 2020</b>
<b>Highway 2016 Ford F-550 Truck</b>	<b>17,000.00</b>		<b>17,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Highway 2008 Int'l Plow Truck</b>	<b>27,702.00</b>		<b>8,234.00</b>	<b>16,468.00</b>
<b>Police 2017 Ford Explorer</b>	<b>27,000.00</b>		<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>
<b>Clean Water Trust (Landfill Cap)</b>	<b>416,476.00</b>	<b>213,988.00</b>	<b>15,128.00</b>	<b>615,336.00</b>
<b>Police Vehicle &amp; Hwy Truck</b>		<b>84,850.00</b>		<b>84,850.00</b>
<b>Hwy Truck</b>		<b>220,000.00</b>		<b>220,000.00</b>
<b>Broadband Construction</b>		<b>350,000.00</b>		<b>350,000.00</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$485,178.00</b>	<b>\$868,838.00</b>	<b>\$49,362.00</b>	<b>\$1,304,654.00</b>

Debt Authorized and Unissued as of June 30, 2020				
	Vote Date	Amount Authorized	Issued Retired Rescinded	Amount Unissued
Broadband Network	6/10/15	1,400,000.00	350,000.00	1,150,000.00
Landfill Cap	09/17/18	355,000.00	315,336.00	39,664.00
Highway Truck	05/20/19	220,000.00	220,000.00	0.00
Hwy Pick-up	5/20/19	33,000.00	32,994.00	6.00
<b>Total Authorized &amp; Unissued</b>				<b>\$1,089,670.00</b>

### Tree Warden

I survey the roadside trees on each town road on a regular basis and after storms. I am identifying and take notes on dead or dying trees that could be a potential hazard. Our budget is not sufficient to remove all marked trees year. I create a priority list and concentrate on those trees first each year.

Trees to be removed are marked with a red or orange "X". National Grid has been very good about removing trees that are a threat to the utility wires.

The trees I ask National Grid to remove are marked with a yellow "X".

When the trees are taken down, the brush is chipped and the wood is left near the stump. The abutting land owner is encouraged to use the wood if they want it. There is no money in the budget for me to hire a tree company to haul it away.

This past year, the majority of my budget was spent on Spruce corner rd., West St. Bissell Rd. and Pond Hill Rd.

Please call or text me at 413-320-3100 if you have any questions.

Submitted by,

Bob Goss, Tree Warden

### Veterans Services

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of the goals and objectives for our department district wide have either been canceled or postponed. Much of the work of our office has been done remotely which has been a significant challenge for my staff and our benefit processes, but we've managed to keep operating with very few interruptions in service. Back in the end of March 2020 as all of our offices ended up closing to the public, we faced a huge challenge: how do we keep track of our vulnerable population and keep up communication on their needs if they are unable to come to our town offices. Our solution was to bring our support to them. We collaborated with the Salvation Army of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Military Support Foundation and One Call Away to provide monthly

boxes of both nonperishable food items, and beginning in October 2021 prepacked boxes of fresh dairy, protein and produce which we have been delivering on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the district. At the time of this writing, 1 year from the pandemic shutdown, we have delivered over 1050 of these food boxes. To date we have delivered 13 from the Salvation Army and 25 from Food4Vets to our recipients in Chesterfield. Great thanks goes out to each of these organizations for their help and support.

Tom Geryk, VSO on our staff participated in the SHINE training that occurred the fall of 2020 and has become a certified SHINE Representative. Our objective for this is to more directly assist Veterans and families to access the ever-changing medical insurance challenges. The federal government has made significant changes (Mission Act) to the VA Healthcare system nationally and in Western Mass., and we will need to provide the best information as possible as our older veterans are being compelled to use more and more health services in the community.

Our office, as a member of the Western MA Veteran's Outreach Project participated in coordinating and presenting at our February 10 webinar: ***Adapting and Thriving in the Era of COVID-19***. This was cosponsored with the Smith College School of Social Work. We had nearly 90 registered and almost 70 were still present when the webinar ended. We believe that since most stayed until the end of a 2-hour webinar they obviously found the material and the speakers credible and valuable.

The holiday season during up a pandemic was also a big concern for our population. So many of our veterans and surviving spouses do not live with their families and in some cases their families live far away. To address this isolation we contacted those who live alone and brought them a full holiday meal right to their door. We worked with the VFW in Florence to help prepare over 60 meals that were delivered by volunteers from the VA medical center and members of the Northampton Kiwanis club throughout Northampton, Williamsburg, Hadley and Amherst. As we had done on Veterans Day, we included bags with small gifts of goodies and activities such as word puzzles and jigsaw puzzles. We also worked with the Amherst Police Department to provide Home Depot buckets with winter coats and other goodies to some of our most needy in the community.

We were unable to participate in most all of our traditional outreach events i.e. the Western Mass. Stand Down, Cummington Fair, 3-County Fair, the Big E, and the University sporting events due to the pandemic. Therefore, information about veterans' benefits has been hard to get out to the veterans and their families who could assist them in a time of great need or for ongoing support. The Department's objective is ongoing and efforts to find new and innovative methods of outreach will be important to ensure all who need assistance receive it.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the restrictions that came with it, the majority of our community objectives for FY 21 were unmet and we hope that most of them will be addressed in fiscal year 22. In so many ways it's been a lost year for our community.

Memorial Day 2020 was an experience like none other. Unfortunately, the parade was cancelled and the traditional ceremony was closed to the public. However, a recording of the ceremony was available to the public on the town website. In CY 2020, VA compensation and pension benefits were issued to some Goshen veterans and dependents in the amount of \$17,665/mo. In FY 2020, the Town of Goshen helped several veterans and families make ends meet by providing \$35,222 in M.G.L. CH 115 veterans' benefits. Seventy five percent of those benefits (\$26,416) were reimbursed by the state.

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### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a volunteer board appointed by the Select Board. It consists of 4 members (Chair 2 members and 1 alternate).

The Board hears and decides on requests for special permits, requests for variances, and appeals on the decisions of Building Inspector.

The Board reviews applications, conducts public hearings when applications are presented, receives input from abutters and the general public before deliberating and rendering decisions.

During the 2020 calendar year, 4 applications for Special Permits were filed and 4 of those applications were allowed. There were no filings for variances or appeals of the Building Inspector's decisions.

Applications for hearings may be obtained at the office of the Town Clerk.

Like all other Boards in Goshen the ZBA conducted their meeting in a remote form. Although it was different and new we feel it went fairly smooth. We also feel that the applicants and other interested parties were satisfied.

Respectfully Submitted,

William M. O'Riordan, Chair

Steve Estelle, Member

Corey Carvalho, Member

Roger Culver, Alternate